



Katrina's Aftermath

An aerial tour of the destruction wrought by Katrina in Hancock Co. & Pass Christian

The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892 • We're still here

VOL. 111, NO. 70 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

WWW.SEA-CAST-CHO.COM

ONE SECTION, 12 PAGES

Tuesday
Sept. 13, 2005

Out of the Rubble

Hurricane resources

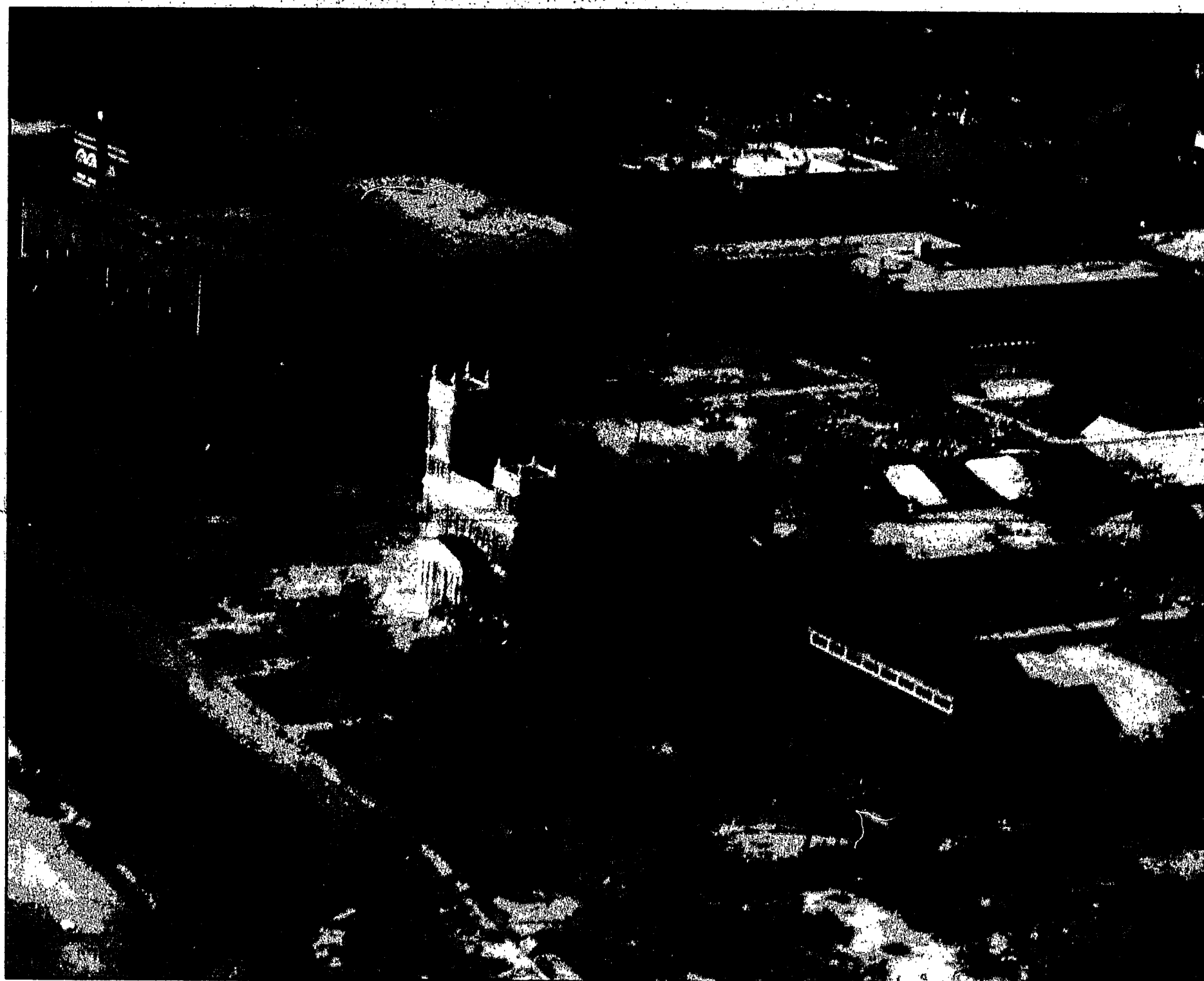
Federal Emergency Management Agency: 1-800-621-3362 (TTY: 1-800-462-7585). **Mississippi Emergency Management Agency:** 601-352-9100. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** 1-800-311-3435. **American Red Cross:** 1-866-GET-INFO (1-866-438-4636). **Mississippi Dept. of Health:** 1-866-458-4948. **Epidemiology reporting line:** 1-800-556-0033. **West Nile Virus hotline:** 877-978-6453.

Operation Blue Roof

Residents of Hancock County who have roof damage as a result of Hurricane Katrina are encouraged to register for Operation Blue Roof. Victims can register for a blue tarp to be put on their roofs by calling 1-800-621-HELP (3362) or in person at a FEMA registration site. Once registered, you must sign a Right of Entry. Operation Blue Roof is a partnership between FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers. FEMA registration sites in Hancock Co. are located at Kmart at the Disaster Recovery Center; and at the Volunteer Center at the Kiln Library located at 17065 Hwy. 603.

Boat traffic

Pearl River is open to all traffic from the mouth of the river to Port Bienville, including the port's industrial park, which is open to all vessels with a draft of 12 ft. or less. The bay is open to normal usage. The Wolf River is open to vessels with a draft of three feet or less. The Jordan River is open to those with draft of five feet or less. Bayou Portage is open to normal channel use, with two visible obstructions.



Our Lady of the Gulf Church in Bay St. Louis, one of Hancock County's oldest and most recognizable landmarks, suffered extreme damage during Hurricane Katrina, but continues to stand despite the massive tidal wave that devastated an estimated 80 percent of the city.

Hancock County is recovering

At least three months for 'sense of normalcy' in Pearlington

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

Hancock County is beginning to slowly recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Local officials are setting up temporary offices at emergency operations centers that have become key in bringing people together where there is only intermittent cell phone services and few land lines. Most say that it will take at least three months for even a semblance of normalcy to return.

Pearlington Fire Chief Kim Jones said there is not one livable structure in the town of nearly 1,000 households. Though no one can keep people from returning



Father Michael Tracey conducts Mass on Sunday in front of Our Lady of the Gulf Church. Tracey said the church will be rebuilt, because it had burned more than 100 years ago and been rebuilt.

RECOVERY--PAGE 6

Edmond Fahey
FUNERAL HOME

Complete
Funeral, Cemetery
And Mausoleum
Pre-Arrangements
467-9031

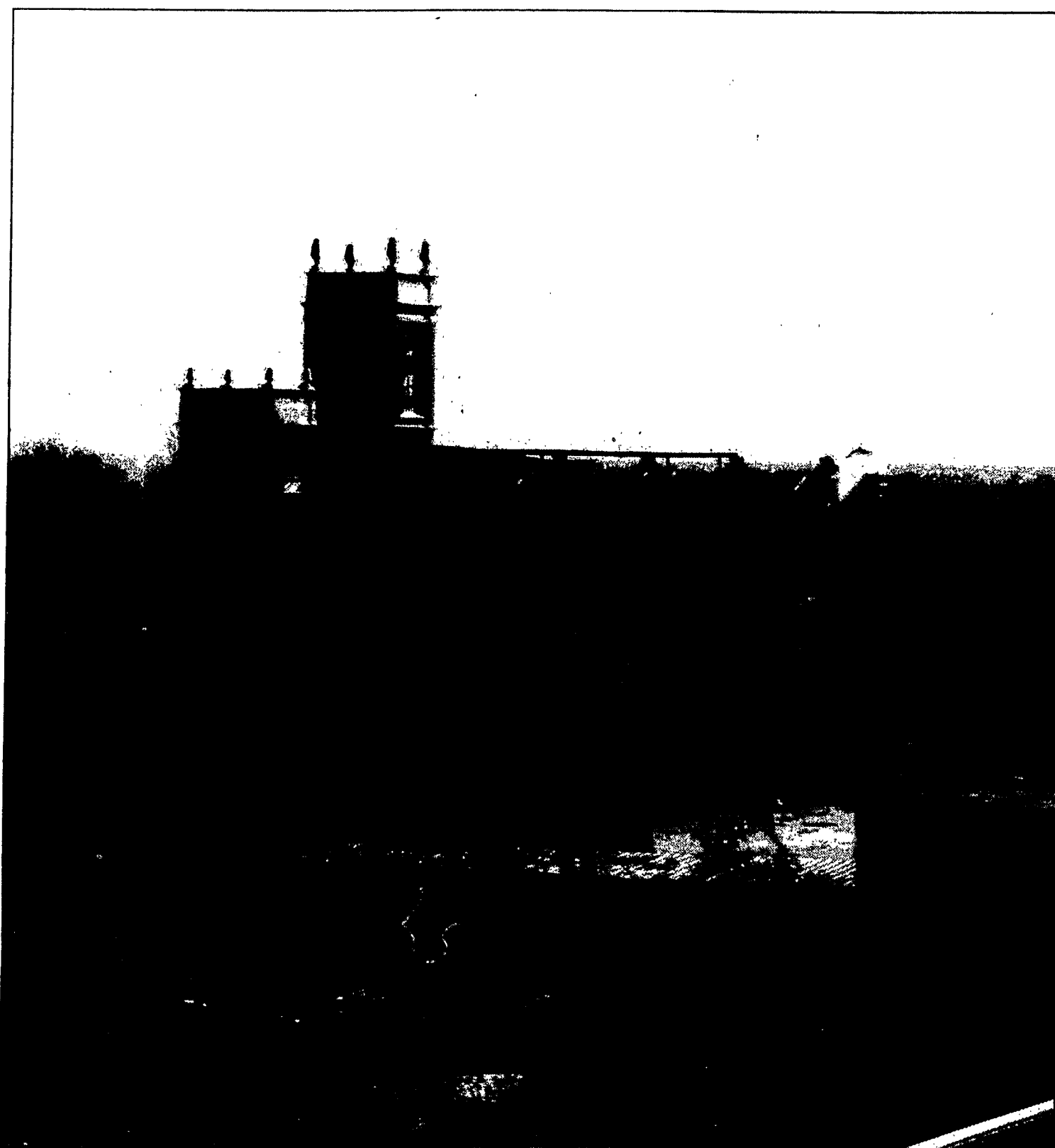
Time & Temp

467-9051

Member FDIC

For News, Advertising or to Subscribe to The Sea Coast Echo, Call (228) 467-5474 FAX: 467-0333

A view from the top



Members of the Air National Guard 110th Engineers out of Battle Creek, MI, tack on tarps to the damage Bay St. Louis Court House on Main St. as they look over the shattered remnants of the hurricane-stricken town.



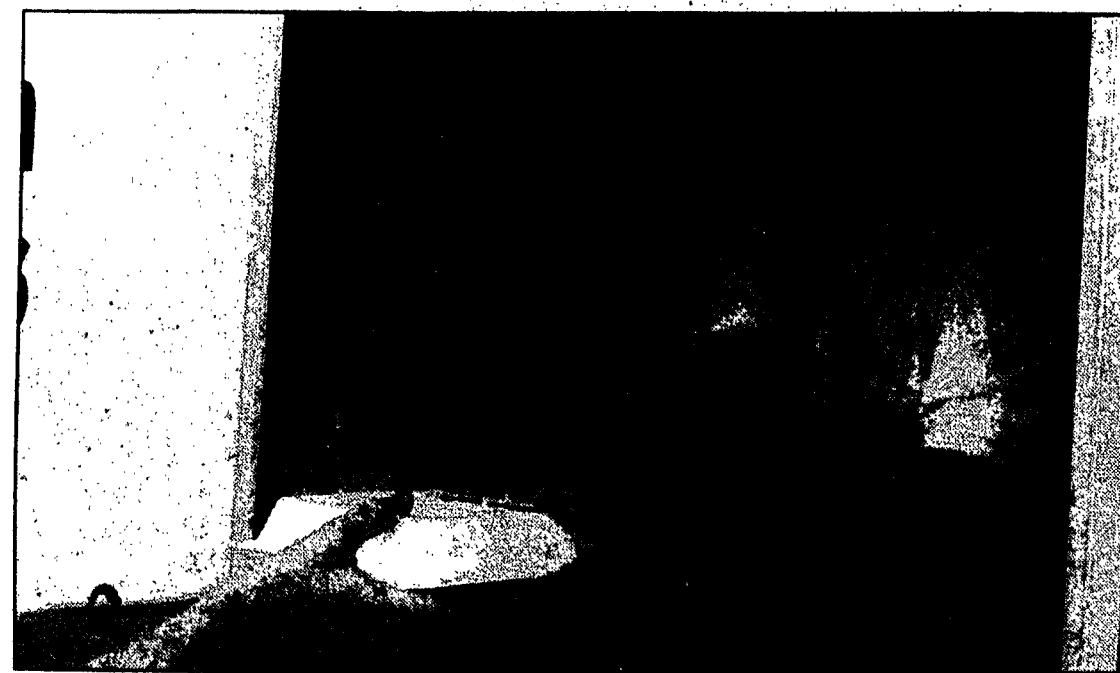
Red Cross aids Hurricane Katrina victims

Emergency financial help available from Red Cross

The American Red Cross will have financial aid available for those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Phone lines will be open as of today beginning at 8 a.m. As can be expected, the lines will be very busy. If you cannot get through on the first try, please continue to call until you are able to get through. The lines will be manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week until everyone is assisted. The number to call is 1-800-975-7585

Beat the heat in a Red Cross shelter

Anyone living without permanent shelter is requested to beat the heat



A Red Cross volunteer delivers hot food on Sunday.

at the Red Cross shelter located at Hancock North Central Elementary School on Cuevas Town Road. The shelter serves three meals a day to every

one staying there and is equipped with ice, water, and air conditioning. Cots are available upon request.

A medical team and

pharmacy is on-site to assist people. Pets are accepted but are required to remain outside. Owners must provide their own pet food.

Bay-Waveland Schools may be extremely costly to repair

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

The Bay Waveland School Board held its first official meeting since Hurricane Katrina on Monday. The board will hold another meeting on Monday, September 19th at 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The board voted unanimously to contract with Adjusters International, a Dallas, Texas based company, that works with policy holders to negotiate insurance settlements. The company will perform their own estimate of the district's losses and then negotiate a settlement with both private insurance companies and FEMA. The advantage to the district should be a much larger settlement, said International's director of operations Brian P. Revere. The service helps policy holders "take control of the process," Revere said.

"The position I have been in is that I have been running around now for two weeks and I feel like my hands are tied," said School Superintendent Kim Stasny.

Some schools are a 100 percent loss, Stasny said. North Bay, the

alternative school, and likely Second Street Elementary are complete losses. Stasny said she will recommend that the building not be used because of structural problems.

Possibilities include holding all grades one through three at Waveland Elementary and other in temporary buildings. Nothing is decided yet, Stasny said, but plans are for the district to be up and running by November 1.

The board voted unanimously to accept the service. Representatives from Adjusters International will join the district's private insurance adjusters today on a walk through schools.

In other business:

• The board voted unanimously to approve administrative leave for non-certified personnel. Those employees will continue to receive pay according to their normal schedule and benefits as approved by the State Board of Education.

• Fisher Scientific, school suppliers, said that the district will be able order new books, desks and other needed supplies within 60 days. The board will provide principals with catalogues.

New York aids in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts here

The Hancock County Donation Distribution Center received a 17 tractor-trailer convoy of donations Saturday, September 10.

The donations were part of an initiative by New York Congressman

Charlie Rangel and citizens of New York to aid people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The 17 tractor trailers brought water, baby supplies, food, bedding, toys, strollers, car seats, and medical supplies.

Operation Donation

Residents and relief workers in Hancock County are in need of Cleaning supplies.

Mops, brooms, cleaning solutions, and laundry detergents are needed. Donations are accepted at the following locations: Kmart at the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) and the

Volunteer Center at Kiln Library located at 17065 Hwy. 603.

Volunteers wanting to help or donate can call 321-837-6441. Victims needing help can call 321-837-6443. The volunteer center is a FEMA registration site with phone and internet access.

Attention

If you have recently received a notice regarding the following Class Action you may have a claim for money damages and it is important you act immediately to protect your rights.

GRAY V. NEW HAMPSHIRE

INDEMNITY COMPANY

**If You Purchased Car Insurance From
AIG or New Hampshire**

Contact Our Office As Soon As Possible
For A FREE CONSULTATION!

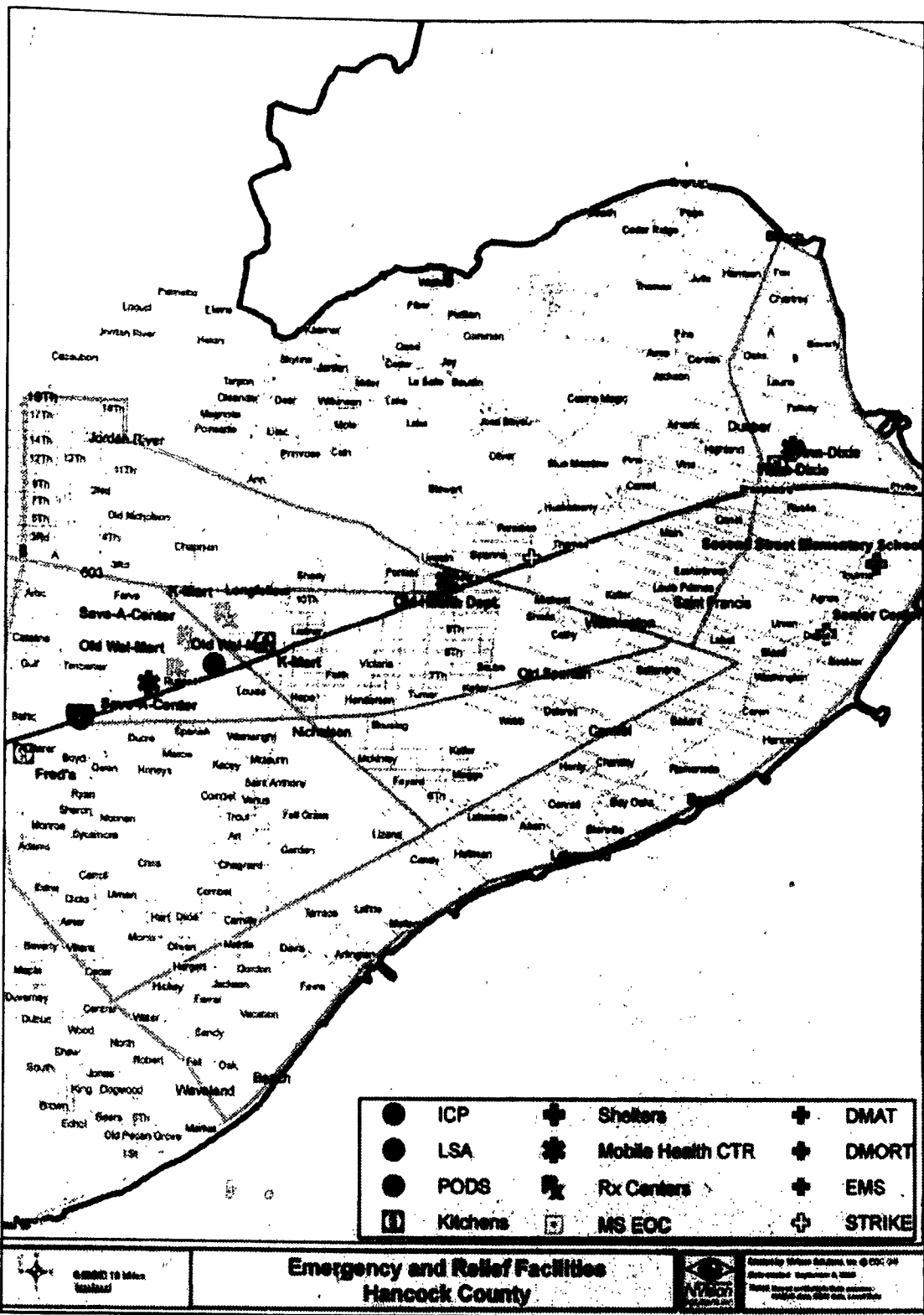
Michael Crawley Steele

Attorney at Law

POB 1695, 205 East Jefferson Street Kosciusko, MS 39090

1-866-989-1123

Free Background Information Available Upon Request.



Hancock recovery update

The American Red Cross Emergency financial help: phones answered 24 hours a day - 800-975-7585.

REMEMBER - KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS: FEMA may reimburse for generators, gas, and other hurricane related expenses.

MISSISSIPPI DEPT. OF HEALTH'S HANCOCK COUNTY WIC Warehouse will reopen Sept. 14 at the Old WIC Warehouse on Hwy. 603.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BLUE ROOF PROGRAM: Sign up at Train Depot in Bay St. Louis.

FEMA has started a temporary disaster recovery center (DRC) at K-

Mart on Hwy. 90 but will soon move to the Bay High Gymnasium. FEMA Disaster Assistance number 800-621-FEMA (3362). Please have your: social security number; private insurance information (if available); Daytime telephone; address and zip code; directions to the damaged home.

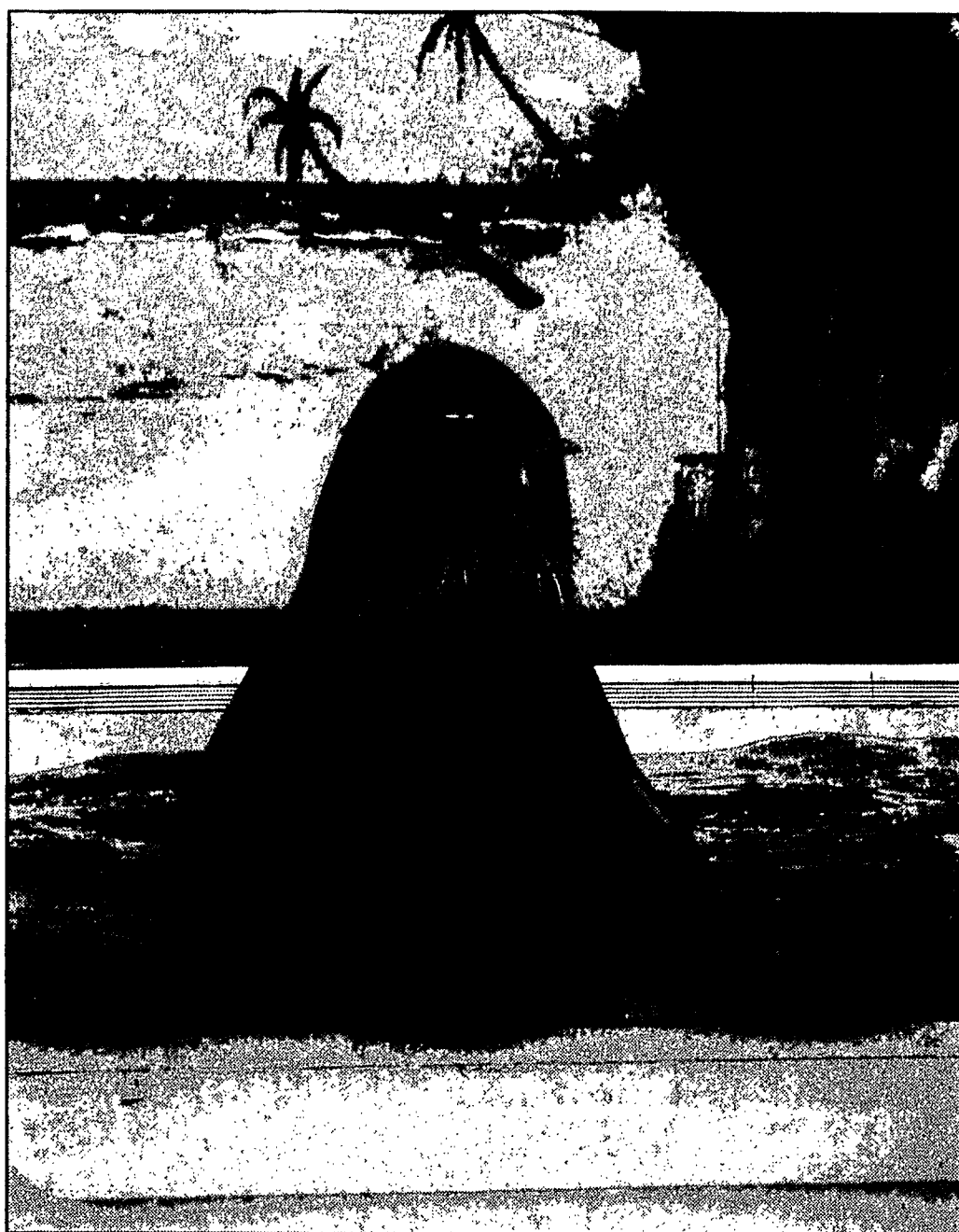
PHONE BANKS are operational where residents can make telephone calls at the following locations: Winn Dixie (Dunbar & Esplanade); Dolly's (Hwy. 603 at Kiln Picayune Road); Diamondhead (Chevron)

Tax Assessor Jimmie Ladner's office: all personnel report to work today at 8:00 a.m. at the Kiln Substation.

POSTAL EMPLOYEES call employee info line at 888-363-7462. Employees at the following Post Office locations are to report to work at their next regular day/time. Lakeshore, Pearlinton, Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Kiln and Long Beach employees report to Long Beach.

COME OUT AND HELP: Hancock County is coordinating a Volunteer Center at the Kiln Library on Highway 603. You can register and service fellow citizens in need. The center is the headquarters where volunteers can go and receive assignments.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE CALL 321-837-6443. They also have a FEMA registration Center.



Andre, the sea lion.

Marine Life sea lion rescued in Hancock

BY JOHN FEW
Staff Writer

Twelve days after Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast, a special rescue operation saved the life of a well-known area performer. Swept away from the Marine Life Oceanarium in Gulfport, Andre the Sea Lion was discovered by an officer from Tallahassee, Florida in a marshy spot off Lakeshore Road in Hancock County.

"At first they didn't know what it was," said Johnny Kersanac, a deputy with the Hancock County Sheriff's Department. "They thought it could be a pilot whale, then an otter and maybe a seal. I thought there may be a possibility it was one of the animals from Marine Life in Gulfport."

Marine Life sent three trainers and a veterinarian with Kersanac to the area and found the mystery animal was actually Andre, one of two big sea lions still missing.

"It took officers from several

agencies and the trainers, wading through the muck to reach the nearly 400 pound sea lion," said Kersanac. "Andre was out there in his own little spot. He came the rest of the way to us when the trainer started talking, he recognized his voice, and we were easily able to get him into a create. Andre was then transported to the command center where he was well fed and cleaned."

Kersanac stated that he was informed Andre was sent to an oceanarium in the Bahamas.

"It was one of those make you feel good things among all of the other stuff that has been going on," Kersanac said. "It's better than some of the other stuff that I've had to do."

Kersanac participated in the rescue of a 600 pound man a drift in a shrimp boat four days after the storm. He also helped rescue several people trapped by the rising waters at Waveland during the storm.



On Monday, September 5, Gainesville, FL residents Bryan Bibau (left) and Raphael Massey serve fried and grilled chicken to area residents affected by Hurricane Katrina. The two bought over 400 pounds of chicken after FEMA rejected their application. Raphael said, "We just wanted to help."

Things you need to know when re-building your home in the Bay

THE SEA COAST ECHO
Permits and Licensing

Permits are a must. Anyone doing work in the City of Bay St. Louis must have a permit (at no charge) and be licensed either through the State of Mississippi or the Building Office.

This is being done for your safety, and protections, not to hinder the recovery process. This is also necessary to enable the city to track damage for FEMA. Out of state contractors can be issued a temporary contractor license to work in the City of Bay St. Louis if qualified by the Bay St. Louis Building Official.

Temporary housing
Mayor Eddie Favre has instructed the Building Department to allow RV's and travel trailers on your home site to be installed and connected to electrical power by way of a tempo-

rary pole for six months while your home is being reconstructed.

A free permit is required from the Building Department. This permit may be extended if work is not completed at the end of six months provided work has begun. As trailers are provided by FEMA, these trailers will also be allowed to connect to power poles.

Watch out for contractors

During this trying time some people will try to take advantage of you and your family. Don't let it happen to you. Mayor Eddie Favre has waived all permit fees for those citizens trying to repair or rebuild. All contractors are required to obtain a permit from the Building Office to ensure they are licensed and qualified to do the work. Do not give contractors money in advance for materials or labor.

Contact Building

Official Bill Carriagee for temporarily set up at the more information. The Old Train Depot on Blaize Building Office will be Street.

HODA CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

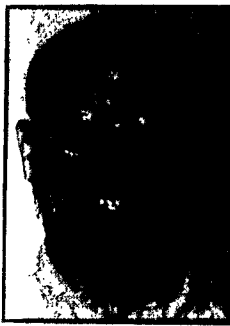
NOW OPEN

MON.-WED. / FRI.
8-12, 2-6 / 8-11

HODA CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

255-5328

4308 Park Ten Dr. - Diamondhead, MS



Ponderings

by James R. "Randy" Ponder

Ponder
Editor and Publisher

Paradise lost

Are you okay? Is there anything you need? Not lip service, just sincere concern. Did not matter if it was the neighbor next door or the person on the street, people were pulling together, helping one another. It was the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina's slamming into the Gulf Coast and Hancock County on Monday, August 29, forever changing the face of our communities and citizens.

The destruction was so massive, so complete and so wide spread, it was impossible to comprehend. From New Orleans to Mobile, people's lives were destroyed, loved ones killed. Shell shocked survivors stared in disbelief at their new surroundings. The landmarks that were here yesterday are gone. It is difficult to tell just where we are.

My home in Waveland withstood the powerful winds of Katrina only to fall victim to its huge storm surge. As three feet or so of water rushed into my house, the savage strength of the storm stuck me. This area did not have water in Camille in 1969. The house is on high ground on the north side of the railroad tracks which act as sort of a levy, to block the water. For my house to get water, everything on the south side of the tracks must be under water!

Assessing the situation the day after Katrina made me think of the images from Hiroshima after the atomic bombing which led to the end of World War II. Total destruction, even the leaves were stripped from the few remaining trees as I made my way downtown to the Sea Coast Echo building on Court Street in Bay St. Louis.

The building was still standing, everything

inside was destroyed by almost five feet of water. Computers, printing press, all went under the salty, muddy water churned up by Katrina. No electricity, water nor telephones, no internet, no way to communicate, just total isolation.

The first issue of the Sea Coast Echo after the hurricane was put together by editor Geoff Belcher working out of space graciously provided by the News Express in Pikeville, Kentucky. It was only four pages, featuring Associated Press images and stories about the damage to the Bay-Waveland area. As soon as the copies made their way here, we started delivering to anyone I could find. We handed papers to people trying to get a phone signal at the foot of the washed out Bay St. Louis bridge, aka Bay Central, at the PODs (points of distribution), to people dragging their wet possessions out to the street, at the shelters and hospital. The reaction was amazing. People cried. Others hugged us, or simply said thanks, thumbs up or big smiles. It was a big morale boost to a lot of people, perhaps providing them a sense of normalcy amongst the chaotic scene surrounding them.

A strange thing had happened in the midst of this major disaster zone. We all became equals. No race, no class, no status, no rich nor poor, no boss or employee, just all equal. All in the same situation, all trying to comprehend what had just occurred. All just trying to survive. All trying to figure out what to do next, where to start in the long, long process of cleaning and rebuilding. We treated each other the way we should treat each other, with respect and caring. The way it should be, the way it hopefully will remain.

Message from Coast Electric

On Sunday, Sept. 11, Coast Electric was able to restore electric service to 5,500 members. All of Coast Electric's 31 substations are energized and most of our main circuits are energized. Approximately 36,500 of Coast Electric's 58,000 members have electric service. We remain on target to restore 80 percent of our members who can receive electric service by the middle of this week.

Coast Electric is ready to restore power to many homes that are unable to accept service at this time because the homes have sustained damage and must be checked by an electrician. It is the responsibility of the home owner to ensure the home is safe.

More than 2,800 crew members and support staff from 16 states and 90 companies are working in our three-county area

this week to assist with the restoration process.

Coast Electric members can reach us at our Bay St. Louis office at (228) 467-6535, our Gulfport office at (228) 832-1761 or our Picayune office at (601) 798-5013. Please note that these numbers are not for reporting outages. We are aware of all outages in our system and are working to restore power to all of our members. Members may call with general inquiries. Our Picayune, Gulfport and Bay St. Louis business offices resumed regular business hours as of Monday, Sept. 12.

Coast Electric serves approximately 58,000 members on 90 percent of the land area in Hancock, Harrison and Pearl River counties. Coast Electric maintains more than 5,900 miles of line, 31 substations and four full-service offices in Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, Picayune and

Poplarville. Coast Electric would like to remind our members of the following safety issues. These tips will keep our members and our crews safe during the restoration process.

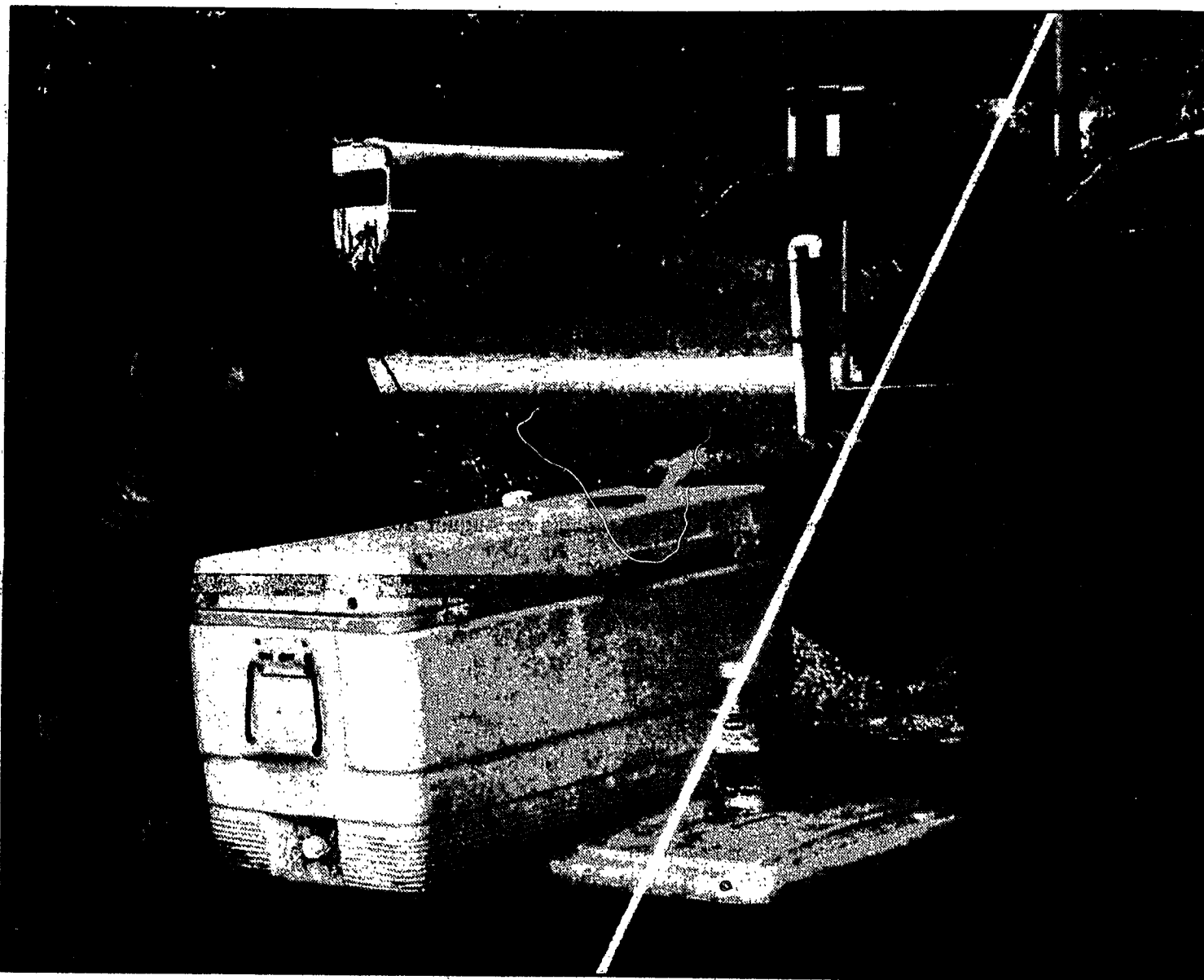
-Please slow down when you are driving in areas where crews are working.

-When cleaning up debris, do not pile it up around downed lines and transformers.

-Do not cut trees that are touching downed lines. Coast Electric has right of way crews that will take care of this for you.

Approximately 5,000 of 12,000 members that can receive power in Hancock County now have electric service and 60 percent of the poles that were down have been replaced.

Crews are working in the following areas: Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Nacaise Crossing, Kiln, Diamondhead and Catahoula.



John and Dottie Snow became separated from their son Jack in the midst of Hurricane Katrina.

Echo staff photo by Jace Ponder

Bayside child missing for 13 days after Hurricane Katrina

BY JACE PONDER
Staff Writer

One of the aspects of life in the aftermath of Katrina is the lack of communication services we have come to rely upon. With most telephone lines down and spotty cellular service, locating loved ones has become a difficult task. John and Dottie Snow of Bayside Park know the feeling well.

They sent their eleven year old child, Jack Wyatt, with a family friend to a Brookhaven shelter. The Snows rode out the storm at North Hancock Elementary.

When they returned home, they found a water soaked house and no information about their boy. They had no way to contact the Brookhaven shelter and no transportation to take them there.

The parents went looking for help. When they contacted the Brookhaven shelter, no one knew anything about Jack. Near despair, they told a sheriff from Jackson County, FL, their predicament, who in turn put a call out on the radio. An amateur radio operator from Lake County, FL, heard the call and immediately did an internet search for

missing persons. He discovered that Jack had been relocated by the Red Cross to Lake Bruin State Park, LA. A sheriff was dispatched to inform the Snows that their child was alive and well.

Jack was alone for thirteen days before he heard from his parents on Saturday.

With the help of Red Cross, he is expected home today.

Post offices open in Hancock County

THE SEA COAST
ECHO

The Post Office of Kiln is currently open to distribute government checks (Social Security, Disability, etc) only for Waveland, Pearlinton, Kiln and Lakeshore residents. Check disbursement will begin Monday, September 12 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Residents must show ID.

The Postal Service has

also reopened three full service locations today that will offer retail and delivery services at Moss Point, Diamondhead and Bay St. Louis in Hancock County.

The Processing and Distribution Plant in Gulfport is clean and ready.

Mississippi District Manager James Daily called this news "a big step in our efforts to

restore services to customers in the Gulf Coast Area."

Retail services are also available at: Escatawpa, Hurley, Long Beach, Perkinston, Wiggins, Ocean Springs, Ocean Spring's Vancleave Station, West Station in Biloxi, North Bay Station in Biloxi, Larkin-Smith Station in Gulfport and Saucier.

The Postal Service will continue to deliver

mail to customers who live north of Interstate 10. Customers south of I-10 are asked to go to designated post offices to pick up their mail.

If you need to change your address, it can be done in three ways:

- On line, at www.usps.com
- In person at any post office, station or branch
- By phone at 1-800 ASK USPS (1-800-275-8777)

The Sea Coast Echo

USPS 487-100

Published Thursday and Sunday each week at 124 Court Street, Bay St. Louis, MS. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2009, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521-2009.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Sea Coast Echo, P.O. Box 2009, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521-2009.

Periodical postage paid at Bay St. Louis, MS.

Phone (228) 467-5474



James R. (Randy) Ponder, Editor and Publisher
Geoff Belcher, News Editor

Ellis C. Cuevas, Publisher Emeritus

BY MAIL

Hancock County, Pass Christian,
Perkinston, Picayune,
Long Beach and Service Personnel.....\$45.00 per year
All Other Subscriptions.....\$70.00 per year

HOME DELIVERY

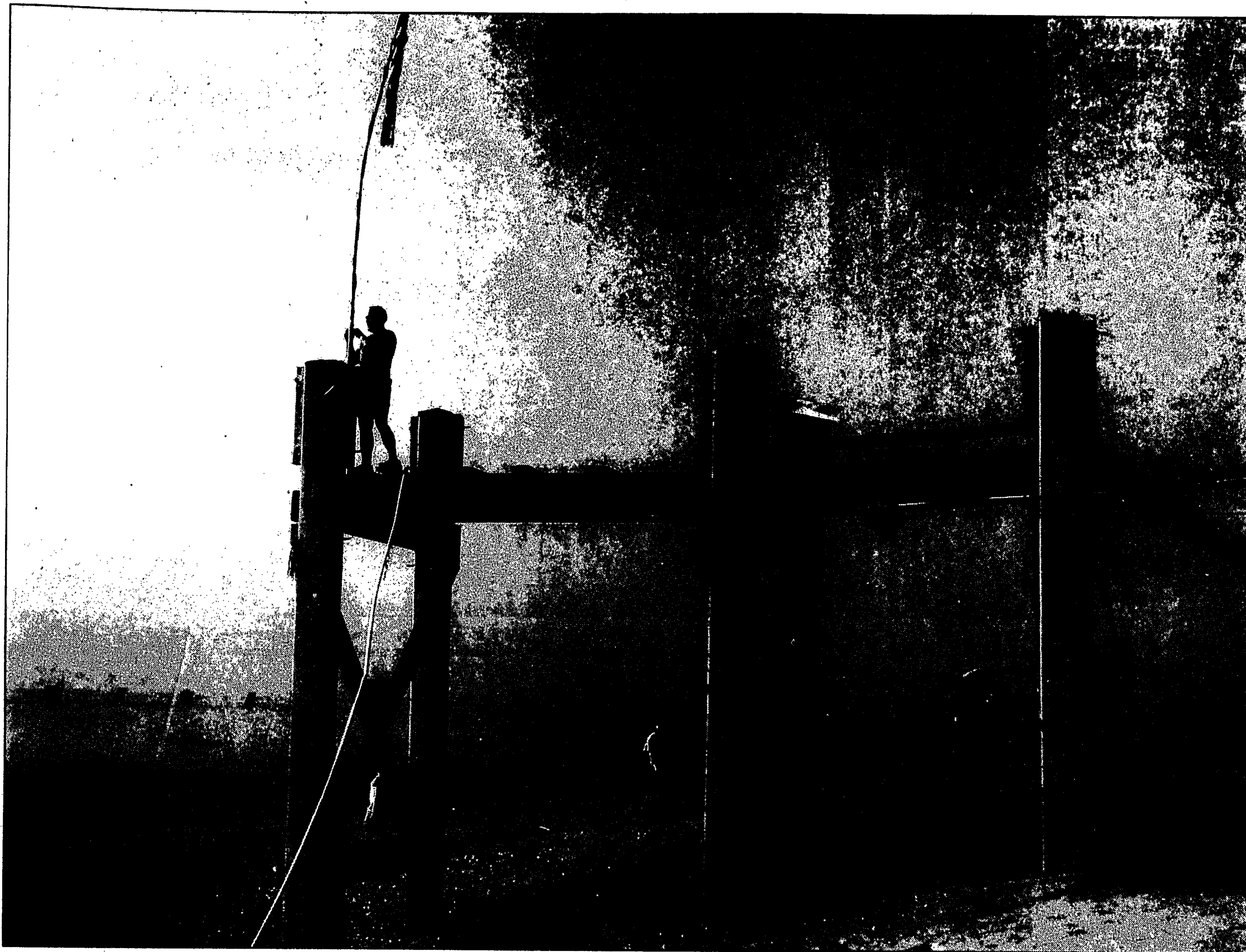
Bay St. Louis, Waveland
and Diamondhead.....\$45.00 per year

110th Year of Publication

Member of the Mississippi Press Association
and the National Newspaper Association

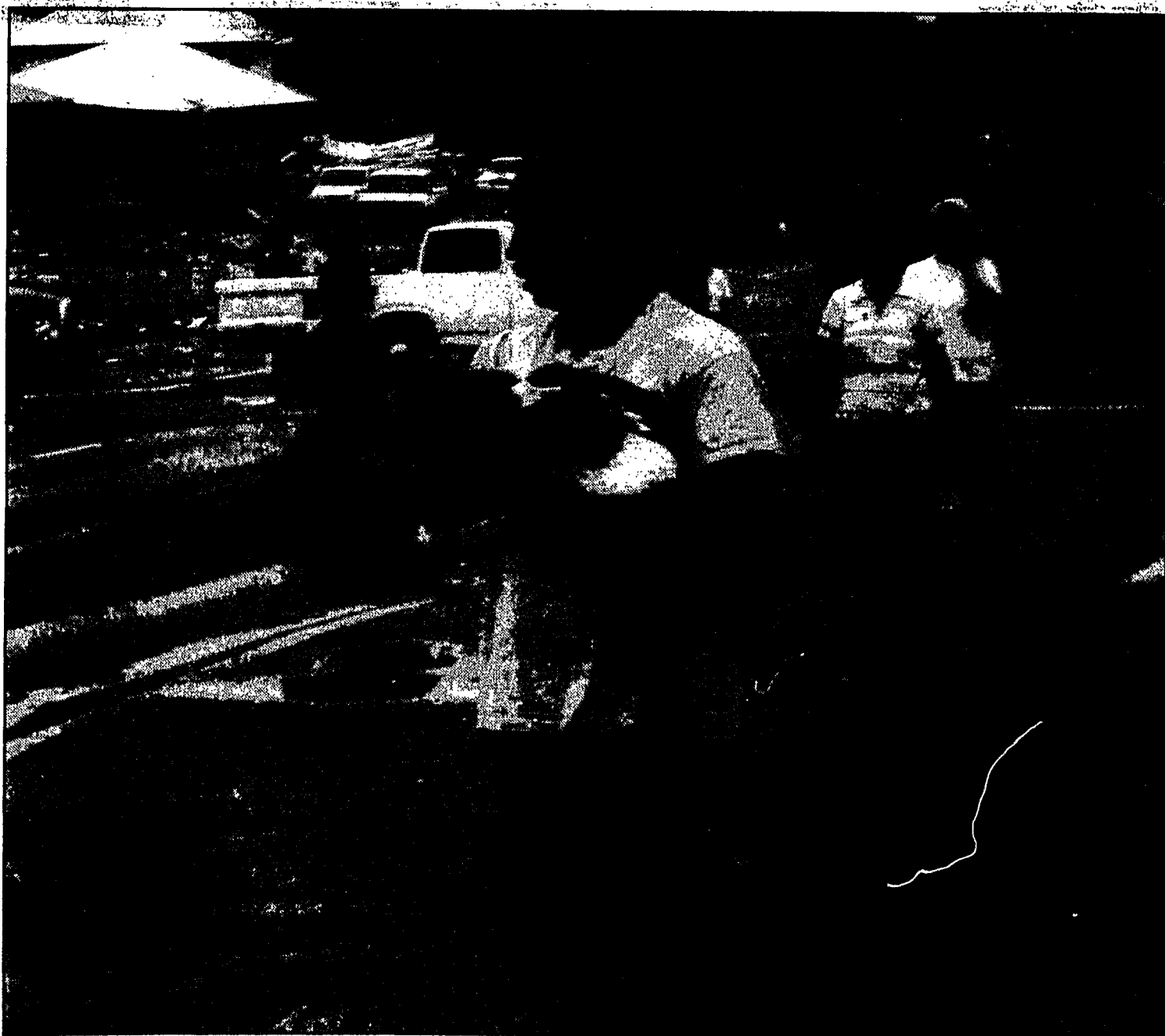
We recommend to subscribers that pre-payments made directly to carriers be limited to a maximum of 30 days. Your newspaper carrier is an independent contractor, and payments by subscribers are not subject to control by The Sea Coast Echo. The publisher maintains the right to reject or edit any submitted matter.

Surviving Katrina



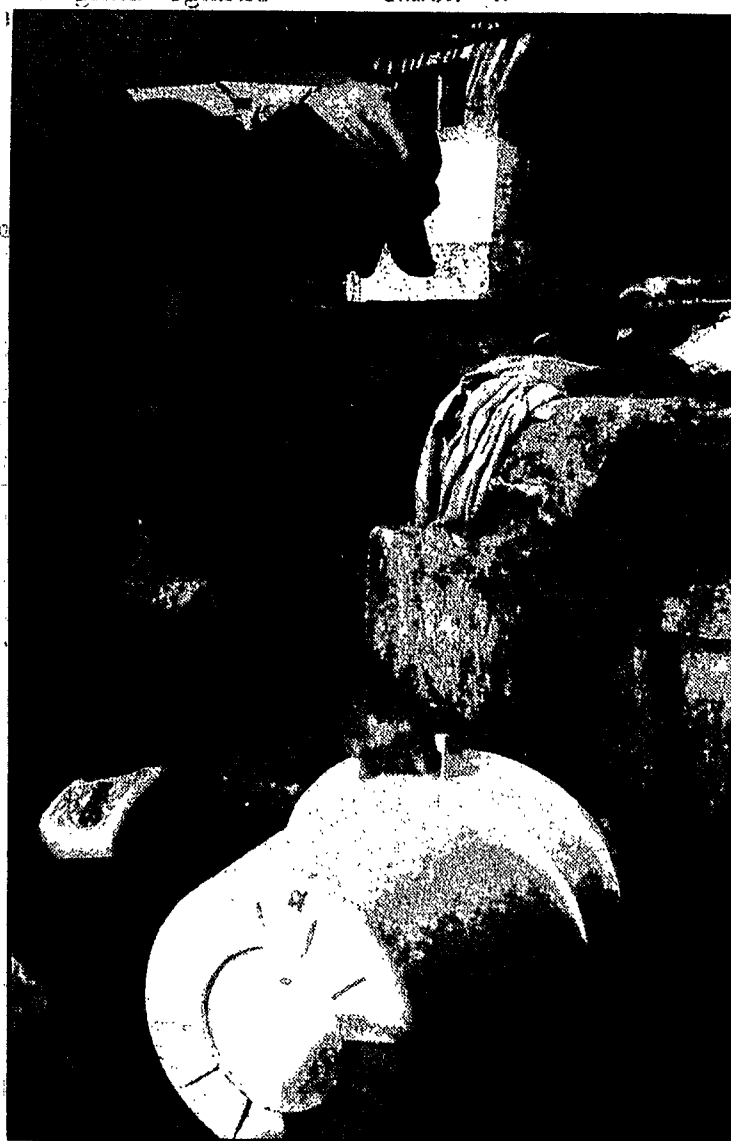
Pete Kergosien raises a flag at Ulman Ave. pier in Bay St. Louis on August 30.

Photo by Jace Ponder



A man walks to the foot of what remains of the Bay Bridge on the Wednesday after Katrina destroyed it.

Photo by Jace Ponder

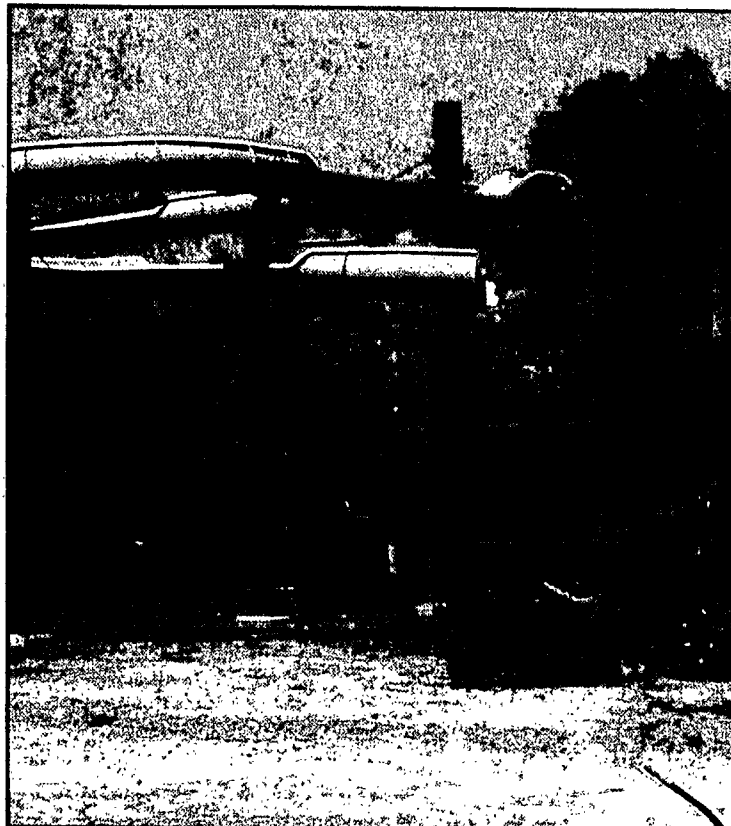
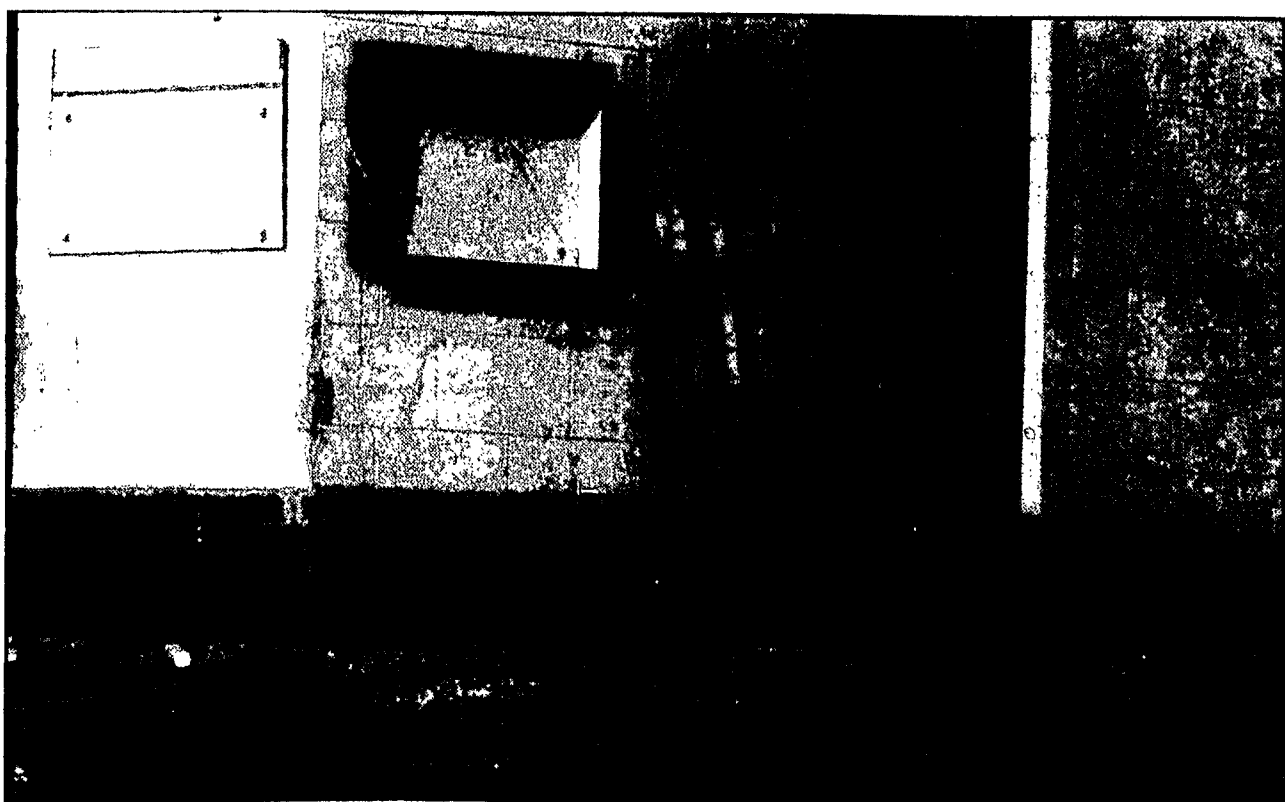


Jose Rietta washes in a broken water line in downtown Bay St. Louis on August 30.

Photo by Jace Ponder

Elloulse Gould surveys the damage in downtown Bay St. Louis on the Wednesday after the storm.

Photo by Jace Ponder



Buccaneer State Park's water slides didn't escape the Katrina's surge. The slides drop off twenty feet in the air.

Recovery -- slowly getting better

Continued from Page 1

to the area, Jones said he is advising residents to wait at least three months before coming back. The community was under close to 20 feet of water, Jones said. He estimates months before power is restored to the community. People are showering with hoses connected to wells.

About 300 members of the community were evacuated by bus to other states. Many members of Greater Mt. Zion AME church went to South Carolina, Jones said. Other residents went to Amarillo, Texas, and others to Charlottesville, West Virginia. They will be housed for at least six months and offered jobs if they are able to work, he said.

Right now septic tanks have come out of the ground. Because grave yards have flooded, tombs floated out. The fire department has relocated around 20 alligators from town, Jones said. On a lighter side, Jones said, a little boy found a baby racoon and was able to bottle feed and save the tiny creature.

District 1 Supervisor David Yarborough said that every structure in his district suffered water damage. Even so, he said, most of the people he has talked to say they will rebuild. Supervisors are meeting everyday to try to decide where and when they will be able to set up temporary offices, likely in trailers,



District 1 Supervisor David Yarborough talks with Hancock County Water and Sewer district president Al Smith on Monday. Water and sewer service is down throughout the county.

Yarborough said. The court house was heavily damaged. No public meeting are scheduled at present.

Waveland Mayor Tommy Longo said every city employee lost their home. The city will set up a temporary "trailer city" in Buccaneer Park for city employees. Three of the city's four wells are up and running, though like all areas in

the county, you should not drink the water yet.

The outpouring of help from other cities and states and the military has been magnificent, Longo said, but he is very disappointed with the response from FEMA and insurance companies so far.

He had the assurance of Lowe's that they will still locate in the city, he said, and that Walmart

will rebuild. Hubbard's hardware is already open for business for limited hours each day, including Sunday, Longo said. Many other businesses have also said they will rebuild, he said. The city will come back, Longo said, though there is history lost that will never be recovered. The City of Waveland has already replaced many police cars and public works

vehicles. All the city's fire trucks were destroyed. The city is operating with two trucks on loan from Stennis Space Center and West Hancock Fire Department. Three Doors Down is donating a tanker truck to the city.

All streets in the city are passable, said public works director, Ron Calcagno. The beach road is open all the way

to Lakeshore, he said. City water should be tested by the health department within a month, he said.

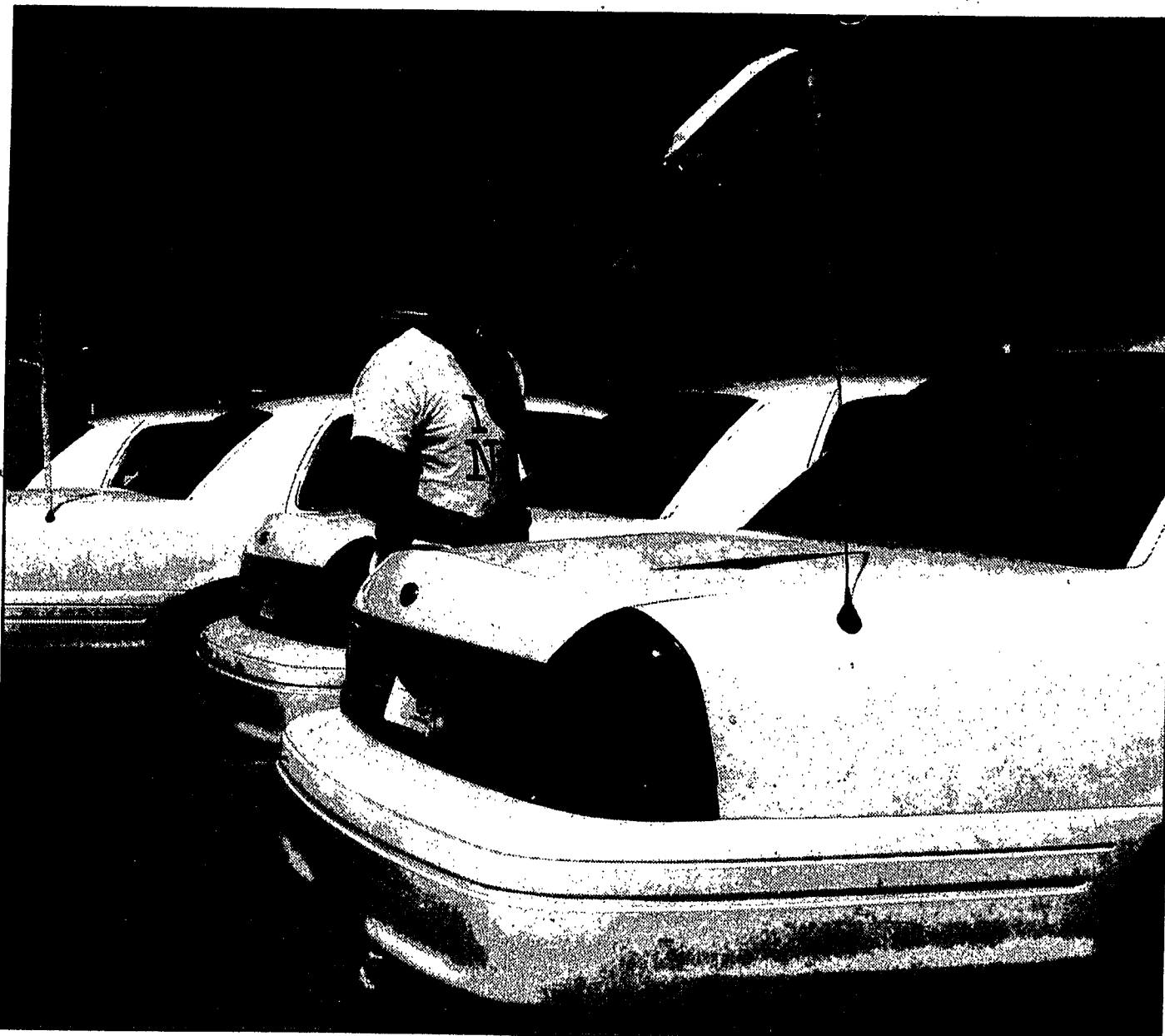
Southern Regional Wastewater District got up and running on Saturday thanks to the around the clock efforts of plant operators Doyle Ladner, Johnny Saucier and other employees. The plant is receiving around 300,000 gallons per day mainly from Waveland And Bay St. Louis. It is capable of treating a million gallons a day right now, Ladner said, with capacity rising. The plant was treating about 4 million gallons a day before the storm. DEQ has approved the operations.

Treatment is down for two reason, Ladner said, many pipes and lift stations were damaged and so many houses were lost. Hancock County Water and Sewer Board president Al Smith said that nothing in his district was working. Sewer service and water service is unavailable in the district, he said, until lines are tested and repaired. Service may be non-existent in many areas for month, Smith said.

The district has new electrical panels for lift stations and grinder pumps and will replace service as people rebuild, Smith.

Water will likely be chlorinated and tested by the health department in the next month, Smith said.

Back from Iraq



Waveland Patrolman Bobby Gavagnie is home on a two week emergency leave from the National Guard 155th Infantry Division Bravo Company now serving in Iraq. Gavagnie is one of three Hancock County residents, and 12 Harrison County residents home because of Hurricane Katrina. Gavagnie was admiring the new police cars in Waveland.

American Medical Response works overtime for victims of deadly hurricane

THE SEA COAST ECHO

American Medical Response (AMR), the local emergency medical services provider for Hancock and Harrison Counties, has called on its national resources from around the United States. AMR Operations from Florida, Georgia, Texas, Connecticut, Washington, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Oregon, and California have been called upon to assist with relief in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The day before Katrina made landfall, AMR had six ambulances located at shelters and fire departments around Hancock County. Immediately after the storm, AMR utilized local resources and brought in the Emergency Support Unit (ESU), which served as the local base for ambu-

lance operations in Hancock County.

Currently, AMR is staffing twelve ambulances in Hancock County alone, with multiple resources available as needed. Along with responding to medical emergencies, AMR is providing humanitarian resources to several area communities. Not only are ambulance crews walking door to door to check medical needs of households, they are also passing out supplies and public information fliers.

Rick Fayard is the Hancock County Director of EMS Operations for American Medical Response. AMR maintains a company mission of being patient focused and caregiver inspired. American Medical Response will continue to be the lead emergency medical services agency to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

NO FAULT DIVORCE \$300 + Filing Fee

Blackwell, Lightsey & Sakalarios, PLLC
601-649-3615 601-736-3483
1-800-414-0920

Offices in Laurel & Columbia, Mississippi
Listing of these areas does not indicate certification or expertise therein.
Free background information available upon request.

IF YOU HAVE TAKEN VIOXX®

and have suffered or experienced a heart attack, blood clots, or stroke -You may be entitled to recovery.

Call our office immediately!

R. Ayres Haxton, Attorney at Law, P.A.
1-800-828-5970

Natchez, MS

Free background information available upon request

For information on this office you may contact the Mississippi Bar at (601-948-4471).

Livestock Help

For Hurricane Victims

Responsible equine personnel are willing to come to MS or LA to pick up horses and board indefinitely in their equine facility in VA.

All you need do is call for assistance:

804-883-5450 or 804-382-2200

or email cls7503@aol.com

(Note: These are not horse traders; they are horse owners and understand the need for care and safety of horses during such times.)

he said.
d be test-
h depart-
month, he

Regional
trict got
ing on
s to the
k efforts
rs Doyle
Saucier
ployees.
eceiving
gallons
y from
Bay St.
able of
gallons
Ladner
y rising.
treating
gallons a
storm.
ved the

own for
ner said,
lift sta-
ged and
s were
County
r Board
ith said
district
Sewer
service
the dis-
til lines
epaired.
on-exis-
eas for
l.
as new
for lift
grinder
replace
rebuild,

tely be
sted by
ment in
Smith

al
s
ms
ne

s in

IR is
ambu-
uncock
a mul-
ailable
y with
edical
IR is
itarian
al area
only
crews
oor to
eds of
e also
es and
fliers.
s the
ounty
EMS
erican
AMR
pany
atient
giver
erican
will
lead
serv-
p the
icane

LA to
n VA.

erstand

STATE FARM

is here to help
you with your claim.

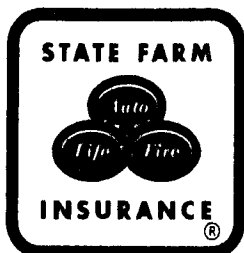
State Farm® is aware that the recent hurricane has caused extensive property damage.

If you are a State Farm policyholder, and your home or car has been damaged by the hurricane, please:

- Contact your **State Farm agent**; or
- Call **1-800-SF CLAIM (1-800-732-5246)** to reach our catastrophe operators; or
- Visit **statefarm.com®** to initiate a claim online.

Helping people recover from the unexpected is what being a good neighbor is all about.

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



STATE FARM IS THERE.®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

statefarm.com®

State Farm Insurance Companies • Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

Hope Haven will return soon despite Katrina

BY TERRY LATHAM

I left my office in the Youth Court, with mud clinging to my shoes. The water was "only" a foot deep in the building, but the mud was 6 inches deep and it stunk.

As I passed the Bay St. Louis City Hall I read the city motto, "Bay St. Louis, A Place Apart." I mentally changed it to read, "Bay St. Louis, A Place Torn Apart." The Beach Road was gone along with the buildings. The water was peaceful. What did I expect to see? Shame, regret, an apologetic ripple - So sorry I ruined your towns, your houses, your businesses, your lives.

I headed back to my car and drove down the twisted tree-choked roads to our shelter. Was it still standing? What would we do if it wasn't. As I neared the area I was certain that there would be nothing left. But there was the building in tact.

I should have stopped a block away and kept the illusion that everything was o.k. Roofs and walls do not make a house let alone a home.

Seven feet of water had churned the contents of the 3,000 sq. ft. home into a muddy brew of furniture, food and funk. The activities building was just as bad. No, worse, as over 500 toys and 3,000 newly donated "Beanie Babies" bobbed in the trapped pools of water.

All gone - 12 years of work, 12 years of garnering community support. We had held a ribbon cutting ceremony three weeks ago for our new kitchen/dining room. We had just purchased new furniture, computers and a brand new van with a grant from "His Way" in Jackson. The van had less than 100 miles. Somehow the van had tree branches and leaves inside. How could that be - the doors were locked.

The anger that started welling up in my chest exploded and I screamed at everyone - and no one that "it wasn't fair". We did good things!

The next morning I was back at the shelter with three neighbors who needed work. We pushed

and pulled furniture, bedding, clothes and all the stuff that a house that has up to 15 children in has. By noon I knew that we were not going to make it - the shelter was doomed. A passing Florida Highway Patrol car slowed down in front of the shelter and the officer shook his head at the 20 foot long pile of junk along side the roadway. We talked and I told him about Hope Haven and how if I could just get some more help I might be able to save the shelter - Save it to save more children. He drove away after telling me "I'll do what I can".

Frustrated, dirty, smelly and angry, I got into my truck and went to find the mayor of Waveland. He was upstairs in the Wastewater Building. He listened to my plea for help nodding his head all the while. He then told me about the lives lost on Herlihy Street and it brought me back to the reality that I was not alone in this nightmare. I had part of a house left. The mayor had lost his

home and Town Hall. He only had the clothes on his back. But he promised to try to help. I left with his words in one ear and the patrolman's same words in the other. "I'll try to get you help".

Back at the shelter I dug into the house again. Scooping instant potatoes and spaghetti that had been immersed in God knows what for four days - into a waste paper bin. Then I heard the rumble. Heavy trucks, heavy green trucks, heavy green trucks filled with green Seabees! The trucks drove past the shelter and kept going. I ran after them waving my arms and shouting "Here - stop here!" They did stop and they backed up. I ran up to them and asked "Are you looking for Hope Haven?" When they said they were I could have danced naked in the street in Joy...in hope that the shelter might be saved.

Two different people heard a heartfelt plea.

Both listened and both found the Seabees and sent them to help. The men of the NMCB 133 arrived just in time. In two days they emptied the buildings, tore out the ruined walls and insulation and put a new roof on.

All of them expressed their appreciation of what our shelter did for children and how they felt good about helping to rebuild it. The mayor and the patrolman stopped by both with smiles on their faces. Soon - weeks, months - the walls will again be solid. The furniture and all that it takes to make a house a home will be back in place. The "king bee", a two star admiral stopped in and took a tour to see what his men were doing. He expressed his pride in the Seabees helping to bring Hope Haven back to life again.

Hope Haven is alive and will return soon to serve the children of

South Mississippi who have been beaten, raped, starved and abandoned. We will invite that patrolman, a retired Navy Chief, the mayor, and the admiral to come along with every Seabee who worked to "bring back the Hope" to our future ribbon cutting ceremony. And we will pray that none of us will ever have to go through this hell again.

Terry Latham, Director by Candlelight PS - Margie Toups, President - Home and all belongings lost

Rhonda Derenbecker, Vice President - Home and all belongings lost

Greg Kothman - Home damaged

Valerie Edenfield, Asst. Shelter Manager - Home and all belongings lost

Lois Morse, Bookkeeper - Home and all belongings lost

But the first thing they asked me was...How is Hope Haven? How is the shelter?

Displaced residents cope with homelessness after hurricane

BY JOHN FEW
Staff Writer

With tears beginning to stream down her face, Nancy Fitzsimmons stood silently for a moment in an empty driveway, clutching the black, sequined blouse she wore to her daughter's wedding. It's one of only a handful of possessions she was able to salvage from the rubble that was once her home on Lakeshore Road.

Her house had been picked up by the rising flood and deposited across the road. A few days later it was leveled and pushed into a ditch by rescue crews trying to make a clear path through Lakeshore. Remarkably, the only structure left standing was the Fitzsimmons' mailbox, with the mail still inside — three DVD movies they had rented from Blockbuster before the storm.

Now the Fitzsimmons search for direction.

Void of answers to many questions, residents in Hancock County are handling life as it comes, day to day. The Fitzsimmons, like everyone else, wait and search for the very crucial question — what do we do next?

"I don't know what we are suppose to do?" she says frustrated. "I can't stay right here — there is nothing left. I haven't seen FEMA or the Red Cross out here."

After the storm, the Fitzsimmons were covered with mud sitting in a parking lot at the small town of Walker, Louisiana. From there they were directed to a church which had just been converted into a shelter. There they live with hundreds of refugees from Mississippi and Louisiana, including sev-



Nancy Fitzsimmons in front of the slab where her house once stood. Amazingly, all that remains is her mailbox, with the mail still inside.

eral that had previously been housed in the New Orleans Superdome.

REACHING RURAL AREAS

Help in rural areas of the county had been slow in reaching residents trapped with no way out, but during the past few days signs of increased assistance and organization are shedding a new light of hope that things are getting better.

Helping to coordinate relief efforts in Hancock County is a disaster recovery team from Florida. This time last year, this team was instrumental in providing relief to there home state after a series of hurricanes devastated their area.

"They have developed a really good system based on experience in their state," said Tim Kellar, the public information officer for the Hancock County EOC. "They've help establish the PODs (Points of Distribution) and are assisting to better organize the relief effort in so many ways."

One of the first changes after their arrival was to base the search, rescue, recovery and

relief effort in one central location. "After the storm, the Hancock County EOC found itself in a worse case scenario. Their base location was destroyed and all alternate sites that were previously established through a contingency plan was also damaged and rendered useless.

The EOC is now located at the Hancock County Vo-Tech building next to Stennis Airport, which had already become a staging area for relief distribution. "Being able to pull the leaders of all the various agencies in this effort under one roof has been a tremendous asset in getting very substantial help to all parts of the county and realizing what tasks and problems lie ahead day to day."

Some areas of the county are still hard to reach, but military missions have been very successful recently in getting through. "A few days ago, they even found some people that were isolated north of the Highway 90 Pearlinton bridge. It was roughly about 25 boats that were tied together and they did not have any supplies. The military has since been using that as one of the helicopter drop zones," Kellar said. "They have literally been performing logistical miracles, trying to get supplies anywhere they can find there is a need."

National Guard troops and volunteer fire departments have also been driving throughout the neighborhoods and communities delivering supplies to those who can not get to one of the PODs. "The volunteer firefighters have been especially helpful in this," Kellar said. "The distribution is now pretty much established. It's all based on the Florida model."

Reach 2.2 Million Readers Across The State Of Mississippi

Auctions EMP-TRUCKING FINANCIAL

GREAT ANTIQUES AUCTIONS: Flowood, MS. 1st Saturday Monthly. No Junk - No Repairs. Info: 1-601-936-4248. www.gcauctions.com. #1027 D.C. Price, owner.

LET MISSISSIPPIANS KNOW about your special antiques, collectibles, auctions, or flea market by advertising in the Mississippi Classified Advertising Network in 104 participating Mississippi newspapers. Cost is only \$200 for up to 25 words for one time in 104 papers!! Call your local newspaper or Sue at (601) 981-3060 to find out more or to place your ad. Other states available at similar savings.

AUTOMOBILES
POLICE IMPOUNDS & TAX REPOS For sale: Cars from \$500! Cars, Trucks, SUVs! For listings: 1-800-495-0660 ext. 2369.

BUSINESS OPP.
CERTIFIED MOLD INSPECTION AND REMEDIATION TRAINING. Get certified today for mold inspection, and remediation, a fast growing industry. Great business startup opportunity. www.mold-career.com 1-866-497-9977

EMP. - GENERAL
FIREFIGHTERS - TRAINEE PROGRAM. Limited openings. Must pass physical. 17-34 with HS diploma. Excellent pay / benefits. Paid training / Relocation expenses. Call toll free 1-888-255-6282, M-F, 8-6.

EMP. - Medical
A Long Term Care Management Company has immediate openings for the following positions: Therapy Staff, C.N.A.s, LPN's, Dietary Staff, Maintenance Staff, Housekeeping. Benefits include: Competitive Salary, Dental Vision, 401K, Limited Medical Benefits Plan. Transportation will be provided. Please call or come by: Plaza Community Living Center, Administrator, 2279 Atkinson Road, Biloxi, MS 39211. Phone: 228-388-1805. Fax: 228-388-9617.

EMP. - Medical
MD - IMMEDIATE OPENING IN LOUISIANA. Full-time GI, URO, ORTHO with LA license at north Louisiana's largest health system. Contact Karen Foster, 1-888-521-1892 or 1-318-212-8331, karen01@prodigy.net

EMP. - Medical
A Long Term Care Management Company has immediate openings for the following positions: Therapy Staff, C.N.A.s, LPN's, Dietary Staff, Maintenance Staff, Housekeeping. Benefits include: Competitive Salary, Dental Vision, 401K, Limited Medical Benefits Plan. Transportation will be provided. Please call or come by: Plaza Community Living Center, Administrator, 4403 Hospital Road, Pascagoula, MS 39581. Phone: 228-762-8960. Fax: 228-769-1810.

EMP. - Medical
Long term care management company seeks: Maintenance Supervisor. Experience in hospital or nursing facility maintenance a plus. Knowledge of Life Safety Code. Benefits will be provided to the chosen candidate. Please contact: 601-672-8660 or 228-388-1805.

EMP. - Medical
NURSES / SOCIAL WORKERS NEEDED! If you're looking for a way to help Hurricane Katrina victims there is currently a critical need for nursing professionals and social workers. If you are a Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), or Social Worker willing to volunteer, please call Red Cross at (571) 226-8221 - 8223 or -8224.

EMP. - Medical
REACH OVER 2 MILLION READERS in the Mississippi Classified Advertising Network (MCAN) in 104 newspapers statewide. To place your statewide ad call your local paper or Sue at (601) 981-3060. Order any statewide network online at www.mspress.org.

EMP. - Medical
DRIVERS - CDL-A FLATBED! New pay! Benefits, miles, freight & more! Min. 23.1 yr. OTR. 1-800-247-8040.

EMP. - Medical
DRIVERS - CDL-A FLATBED! New pay! Benefits, miles, freight & more! Min. 23.1 yr. OTR. 1-800-247-8040.

EMP. - Medical
DRIVERS - CDL-A FLATBED! New pay! Benefits, miles, freight & more! Min. 23.1 yr. OTR. 1-800-247-8040.

EMP. - Medical
DRIVERS - CDL-A FLATBED! New pay! Benefits, miles, freight & more! Min. 23.1 yr. OTR. 1-800-247-8040.

EMP. - Medical
DRIVERS - CDL-A FLATBED! New pay! Benefits, miles, freight & more! Min. 23.1 yr. OTR. 1-800-247-8040.

EMP. - Medical
DRIVERS - CDL-A FLATBED! New pay! Benefits, miles, freight & more! Min. 23.1 yr. OTR. 1-800-247-8040.

EMP. - Medical
DRIVERS - CDL-A FLATBED! New pay! Benefits, miles, freight & more! Min. 23.1 yr. OTR. 1-800-247-8040.

EMP. - Medical
DRIVERS - CDL-A FLATBED! New pay! Benefits, miles, freight & more! Min. 23.1 yr. OTR. 1-800-247-8040.

EMP. - Medical
DRIVERS - CDL-A FLATBED! New pay! Benefits, miles, freight & more! Min. 23.1 yr. OTR. 1-800-247-8040.

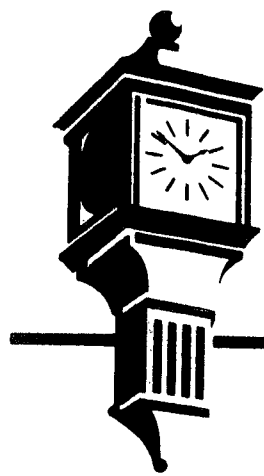
TIMES LIKE THESE CALL FOR A BANK LIKE THE WHITNEY

Founded in 1883, Whitney National Bank is the oldest continuously chartered bank headquartered in Louisiana. Generations of customers have counted on The Whitney through numerous devastating hurricanes. Our strong capital reserves, branch offices located across the entire Gulf Coast, and a detailed disaster recovery plan uniquely enable us to help our customers who have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

- Evacuated clients can conduct business at any operating Whitney branch. See www.whitneybank.com for a complete list of open branches.
- Clients may call Whitney's toll-free customer service line at 1-877-611-9448 to speak with a Whitney Banker.
- Whitney's BillPay service is operational at www.whitneybank.com. Consumer clients not currently using our online bill payment service can sign up by clicking the Personal BillPay link on www.whitneybank.com.
- Whitney's fees for using non-Whitney ATMs have been waived.
- Checks, deposits, and other transactions, including Automated Clearing House (ACH) files used by some business clients to pay their employees, are being processed through our Houston processing center.

Please visit www.whitneybank.com for updated information and other ways Whitney Bankers are assisting our clients and communities to recover from the storm.

It takes a Whitney Banker.



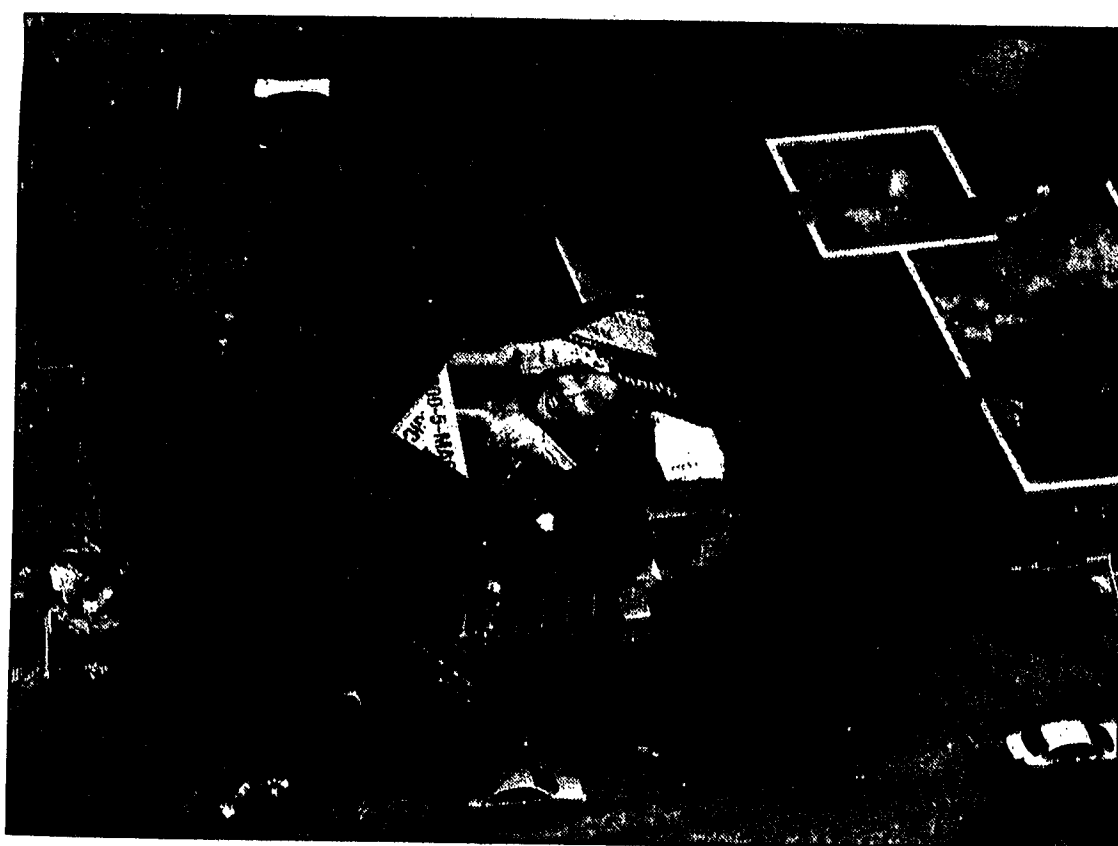
WHITNEY®

Katrina's Aftermath

An aerial tour of the destruction wrought by Katrina in Hancock Co. & Pass Christian



Diamondhead Yacht Club



A portion of a Casino Magic billboard is used to patch a roof.



A debris field at Pass Christian



A train wreck on the tracks near Port Blenville

Echo staff photos
by Jace Ponder

Bay St.
Louis at
Beach
Blvd.



Steel Roofing And Siding

And everything in between including zee purlins, cee channels, trim, fasteners, windows, doors, and skylights. They're manufacturer direct, too. **Mazzei Metal**
Jackson, MS • 1-800-647-8540.

Regional Newspaper Advertising Targets Your Market AND Saves You Money!

With One Call, One Order, One Payment
you can advertise in
over 25 newspapers
in the Southern region of Mississippi
for only \$425 for this size advertisement.
That's only \$17 per paper! You can't beat that!
(Other sizes and regions available.)

To place your regional display ad
call your local paper or Sue at (601) 981-3060

We're Not Just Rebuilding Homes And Businesses. We're Rebuilding Lives.

IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA, the word on everyone's lips is *rebuild*.

Sure, we all want to rebuild our homes and businesses. But most importantly, we all want to rebuild our lives.

We want you to know that we share this goal, and we're here to help. Our agents, claims staff and adjusters are working around the clock to expedite claims and begin the rebuilding process. We know what you've been through. And we're doing all we can to help you make life as normal as possible, as quickly as possible.

~~If you need to file a claim or if you have any questions about your policy,~~
please call us and let us know how we can help.

Together We Rebuild.

To report your claim, please call:

 **Hancock**
INSURANCE AGENCY
1-800-828-0486

 **Ross-King-Walker**
A Division of Hancock Insurance Agency
1-800-844-7594

Insurance products offered through Hancock Bank are not deposits, not FDIC insured, not insured by any federal government agency and are not guaranteed by Hancock Bank or any of its affiliates. Some insurance products involve investment risk and may go down in value.

hancockbank.com



Hancock Bank helps you get back on your feet with these special disaster relief offers.

We know you're hurting, and we're here to help by saving you money and providing extra services in every way we can. As you pick up the pieces of your life in this time of devastation, be sure to take advantage of these special opportunities for financial relief. After all, every penny counts.

Deposit, ATM and Other Fee Relief

- Hancock Bank will waive and/or rebate its charges for customers using other banks' ATMs in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- Hancock Bank will waive and/or rebate fees for domestic wire transfers transmitted from Monday, August 29, through Friday, September 9, 2005.
- In affected areas, Hancock Bank will work with certificate of deposit customers who may need to withdraw a portion of their funds, penalty free, before maturity.
- For customers who need to reorder checks, please call 1-800-355-8123 (reference code: L3).
- Hancock Bank will waive the fee for Internet Bill Pay until further notice.
- Hancock Bank recognizes that conditions created by Hurricane Katrina could result in customers in affected areas being overdrawn. Please contact your local branch or call our customer service number to discuss these special circumstances.

Services for Loan Customers

- Hancock Bank will work with mortgage customers in affected areas to minimize or prevent delinquencies, based on investor guidelines.
- Consumer and commercial loan customers in affected areas may qualify upon request for a payment and/or maturity date extension with no extension fee. Talk with your local Hancock banker for details.*
- Hancock Bank invites those who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina to contact us for expedited services on new mortgage loan applications.
- Hancock Bank will offer special "Together We Rebuild" discounted rates on new, direct consumer installment loans.*

HANCOCK BANK OPEN BRANCHES

These 29 Mississippi locations are open for your convenience.

BAY 90
CEDAR LAKE
COURTHOUSE
CROSSROADS
COWAN ROAD
DIAMONDHEAD
DOCTORS PLAZA
ESCATAWPA
GAUTIER
HWY 98, HATTIESBURG
LINCOLN RD., HATTIESBURG
NORWOOD VILLAGE
OCEAN SPRINGS
PETAL
PICAYUNE NORTHSIDE
PICAYUNE SOUTHSIDE
PINEVILLE
POPLARVILLE
POPS FERRY
PRENTISS
PURVIS MAIN
PURVIS MINI
SEABEE BASE
STENNIS MOTOR BANK
STENNIS SPACE CENTER
SUNNALL
TRIANGLE
UNIVERSITY
VANLEAVE

43 locations are also open in Louisiana and 5 locations in Tallahassee, Florida.

For your convenience, we are opening more locations in affected areas daily. As of September 8, Hancock Bank has 77 branches open, including 29 in Mississippi, 43 in Louisiana and all five Florida branches. Visit www.hancockbank.com for updates on branch status, as more offices are opening daily.

If you have a question regarding your accounts, please call one of these numbers:
Mississippi, 1-800-448-8812; Louisiana, 1-800-256-4636; Florida, 1-800-726-0920.
Call Center Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

HANCOCK BANK ASSOCIATES WHO HAVE NOT CHECKED IN SHOULD REPORT TO THE HANCOCK BANK DISASTER RECOVERY HOTLINE AT 1-800-898-6977. ALL EMPLOYEES NEED TO CALL BY THIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16.



*Subject to credit approval.



Hancock Bank

Member FDIC

www.hancockbank.com

Kelvin
made I
"After

Co
one

BY G

T
remnan
lives.
"Word
the am
wrough
Katrina
Mississ
Monday
last we
goes ou
who hav
this st
County
this thi
As of
woman
Taylor
workers
much o

Special Hurricane Katrina Edition!

The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892

'Ground Zero'



Kelvin Schulz surveys the remains of an old theater which he inhabited in Bay St. Louis, Miss., on Friday, Sept. 2 2005. Schulz was in the building when Hurricane Katrina made landfall with his son, two daughters and his mother-in-law. As the building started to collapse they fled and his mother-in-law, who stayed, perished. Schulz said, "After what we went through, if I died right now and went to hell, I think I'd have it made". (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

Coast bears the full fury of one of the worst hurricanes in recorded history

BY GEOFF BELCHER
News Editor

The eyes of the nation are upon us and their prayers are with us as we sort through the remnants of our shattered lives.

"Words just can't express the amount of destruction" wrought by Hurricane Katrina when it struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast on Monday, Sen. Trent Lott said last week. "Your heart just goes out to all the people who have lost loved ones in this storm. ... Hancock County was ground zero for this thing."

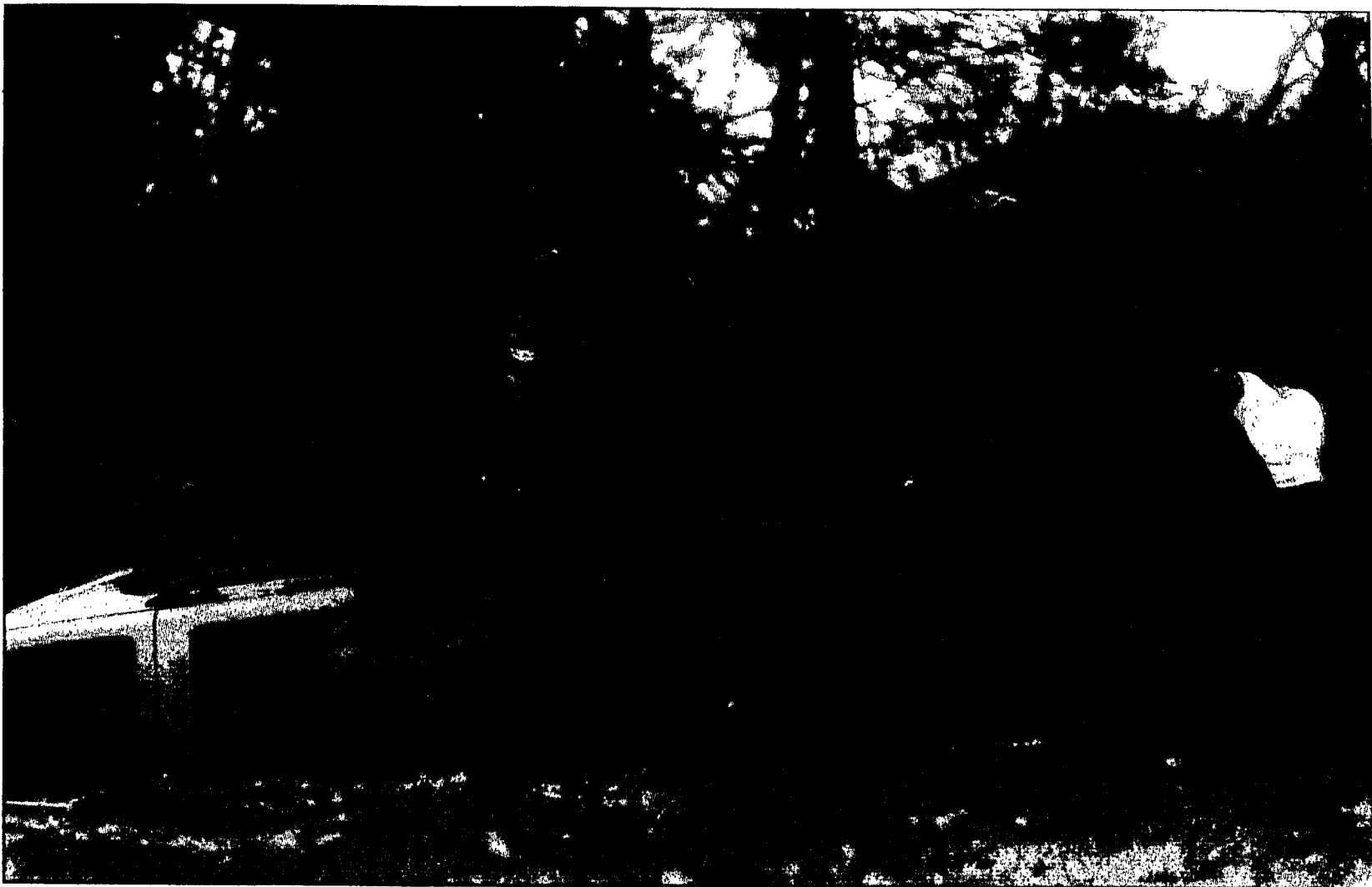
As of Friday, a spokeswoman for U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor said, emergency workers were still focusing much of their efforts on

search and rescue missions on the Coast, trying to find any survivors still trapped in the wreckage. Many people in Hancock County are still unaccounted for, although officials say that may be because they evacuated before the storm and — due to the continued lack of telephone and cell phone service in the area — have been unable to contact their loved ones. Fortunately, no deaths or major injuries have been reported in Stone County.

Officials are estimating that there are hundreds dead in areas along the beach from Waveland to Biloxi.

There have also been deaths in the days since

KATRINA--PAGE 3



Bay St. Louis Emergency Management Agency volunteer crews rescue the Taylor family from the roof of their suburban, which became trapped on US 90 due to flooding during Hurricane Katrina on Monday in Bay St. Louis. (AP Photo/Ben Sklar)



Railroad tracks from the railway bridge connecting Bay St. Louis to Henderson Point were ripped from their supports in Bay St. Louis. (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

Waveland residents consider whether to rebuild their homes or just move on

By BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press Writer

Their house stripped down to a concrete slab, Casey and Stella Williams reminisced about The Good Life, the quaint beachside watering hole where they met.

The bar is gone, joining the furniture, rooftops and other debris carried up to a mile inland by Hurricane Katrina's towering tidal surge.

Gone, too, is The Good Life's happy idyll, as the Williamses and others consider the wrenching question of whether to stay and rebuild.

"She says she wants to leave, doesn't want to go through this again," Casey said Friday as the couple visited neighbors scavenging the mess for remnants.

It's a notion pondered up and down the Gulf Coast, as residents from Gulfport to Grand Isle, La., dig through the ruins and question the value of starting over.

Nothing will ever be the same here — the old homes, the charm, the history.

"This was downtown Waveland right here, condos, restaurants, homes right on the beach," Casey said, sweeping his hand out toward the barren coast. "Yesterday, everyone showed up at the Good Life with a beer and we all sat down on the ground and had a cold one together at the bar. It's all gone."

They're staying with friends at a home several miles inland until they decide what the future holds. "It might all just have to be leveled," Stella said. "And if they rebuild, instead of it being a quaint little place, it'll be a brass and fern town, like a Ruby Tuesdays, shiny and new. And there's just no work here now, just no work at all," Casey added.

A few feet behind them, Brian Mollere set up an air mattress under a tarp on a tile floor that used to be his living room. Born and raised in Waveland, Mollere also considers whether it's worth rebuilding. He rode out the storm in his home, at least part of it. As water rose to the second level, Mollere grabbed his 3-year-old Chihuahua and swam through the swirling surge to a neighbor's three-story home. His 80-year-old mother, Jane, fled before the storm to an apartment in nearby Bay St. Louis, about three miles west, where she drowned.

"This was our family home since 1969," Mollere said. "We lost our first house in Hurricane Camille, just across the street there."

Mollere hasn't yet decided whether he'll rebuild. In the meantime, he's staying with his property, sleeping outside until the confusion clears.

"I suppose I'm OK here. I've got my mattress, a cool breeze at night and it's quiet," he said.

But one thing restored at



Brian Mollere comforts his dog Rocky on his hurricane-ravaged property in Waveland, Miss. on Friday. Mollere decided to ride out Hurricane Katrina after having survived three previous hurricanes. Mollere's eighty-year old mother left Waveland to stay with a relative in nearby Bay St. Louis to escape the storm. She died when a surge of water flooded the apartment she was staying in. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

least some of Mollere's faith after losing everything. He had about 40 homing pigeons in a cage in the backyard that were swept away when water came up from the Gulf. As he sat reminis-

ing about the town that once was, one pigeon returned, fluttering into the yard beneath a split tree.

"Can you imagine that bird got blown to God knows where and he made it back,"

Mollere said, tugging at the neck of his sweat-stained T-shirt. "This was home. But there's nothing to keep me here anymore. The only things I have now are my dog and my pigeon."

"And the older residents, the ones who made this town, probably don't have the fight in them to rebuild. I'll more than likely sell the place. It'll never be the same."

Many area pharmacies offering victims medications free of charge

The Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) announces that select area pharmacies will be offering insulin and other needed medications free of charge to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Pharmacy chains partici-

pating include Wal-Mart, CVS/pharmacy, Rite Aid, Walgreen and Kroger.

People living in areas affected by the hurricane or those who are displaced by the hurricane can receive seven days of free medication by visiting the nearest

location of any of the above participating chains.

State Health Officer Dr. Brian Amy said, "This effort continues to demonstrate the spirit of cooperation and caring for fellow Mississippians."

Finding People

MEMA/Red Cross missing persons: 1-866-438-4636 or send e-mail to missing persons@seoc.ms.gov

Salvation Army emergency network: Use this on-line form to request information on the welfare of a person

National Next-of-Kin Registry: (1-360-739-7206) Post names and pictures of missing persons on-line

I'm OK Line: let relatives know that you have evacuated safely. Information is printed in the Sun-Herald newspaper and posted on-line: 1-866-453-1025

Kat

Katrina d food, wat treatment

Hancock has been t and perfe surgeries and has is call for m nurses to services. T in more n Friday, a ready-to-e other supp Hancock County C Vlahos ha effort to o those kille the first deceased they were refrigerate

Although Orleans h much of t the gover tion, help

In alm the natio civic grou relief ef already se hurricane Louisiana Alabama, National American ing to re and stran water, she those in n

As of I officials v evacuees the Coast, presence v the alre relief effort

MDO' state hig except Hw Highway J ing non-e only in region. T evacuate t do so. How ficult in t vast short is stretch try due to tion of t pipelines.

Power back on Stone Cou Tuesday; than a r power in F A spoke



An emotion they could describe this." (AP

The

Thousa ried abou aftermath Katrina. V communic under wat to commu that your are safe:

Katrina

Katrina due to lack of proper food, water and/or medical treatment.

Hancock Medical Center has been treating the injured and performing emergency surgeries since last Monday, and has issued a nation-wide call for more physicians and nurses to volunteer their services. The U.S. Navy flew in more medical supplies on Friday, along with meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) and other supplies.

Hancock/Harrison/Stone County Circuit Judge Kosta Vlahos has spearheaded an effort to collect the bodies of those killed in the storm. For the first few days, the deceased were left where they were due to the lack of refrigerated trucks.

Although the city of New Orleans has been the focus of much of the nation's — and the government's — attention, help is on its way.

In almost every state in the nation, churches and civic groups have organized relief efforts and have already sent supplies to the hurricane-ravaged areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, joining the National Guard and the American Red Cross in trying to rescue the trapped and stranded and offer food, water, shelter and comfort to those in need.

As of Friday, Mississippi officials were still urging evacuees to stay away from the Coast, saying that their presence would only hamper the already-overburdened relief efforts.

MDOT has cleared all state highways for travel except Hwy 90; however, the Highway Patrol is encouraging non-emergency travel only in the Gulf Coast region. Those wishing to evacuate the area may now do so. However, travel is difficult in the area due to a vast shortage of fuel, which is stretching across the country due to Katrina's disruption of the nation's gas pipelines.

Power is expected to be back on in most parts of Stone County by Monday or Tuesday; it may take more than a month to restore power in Hancock County.

A spokesman for Lott said



Jim Pfeiffer from Bay St. Louis sits in the hallway of East Hancock Elementary School in Kiln on Saturday. Victims of Hurricane Katrina with special emergency needs were brought to the school because of lack of space in the hospital in Bay St. Louis. (AP Photo/Denis Paquin)

on Friday that National Guard units will be constructing "tent cities" in the Hancock County area to help house those who lost their homes.

According to FEMA:

- To date, 15,000 evacuations have been made from the New Orleans Superdome to the Astrodome in Houston and were continuing Saturday to San Antonio for housing at Kelly Air Force Base. Evacuations will continue from Louisiana to Reunion Arena in Dallas, and Lackland AFB, Tex.
- 2,000 patients have been evacuated from the New Orleans airport. Seven National Disaster Medical Service Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) and 3 strike teams are supporting New Orleans medical

- facilities and hospitals not fully operational and setting up MASH-style tents. Five DMATs and 5 strike teams are working in medical facilities and hospitals in Gulfport, Biloxi and other areas of Mississippi.
- Commodities delivered to date include:
 - 1.9 million MREs
 - 6.7 million liters of water
 - 7 million pounds of ice
 - More than 600 buses to transport evacuees
 - As of yesterday, there were 204 shelters with a population of 53,004. This number fluctuates daily.
 - More than 170,000 meals a day are being served throughout the affected areas.
 - 15,400 National Guard were on the ground in three states on Friday and an additional and 1,400 were to

- deploy on Saturday to assist with security of victims and responders.
- A total of 27,000 members of the National Guard will be deployed to the affected areas.
- 200 Border Patrol agents, 200 additional law enforcement officers from other Louisiana jurisdictions and 2,000 officers from neighboring states are assisting in restoring order in the streets of New Orleans.
- Nearly 500 U.S. Corps of Engineers civilians and soldiers are working on the New Orleans levee breach and coordinating the transport of ice and water.
- A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is opening today in Bayou La Batre, Ala., and another tomorrow in Chatham, Ala.
- FEMA is setting up a Joint

Housing Solutions Center to bring together public, private and voluntary agency stakeholders to develop innovative funding and streamlined operational partnerships to address the short and long-term housing needs of disaster victims.

- More than 7,000 people have been rescued — Urban Search and Rescue task forces have made more than 2,000 rescues and U.S. Coast Guard ships, boats and aircraft have been used to rescue approximately 5,000 people.

Affected individuals in declared counties can register online for disaster assistance at www.fema.gov or call FEMA's toll-free registration line 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) — TTY 800-462-7585, hours. Victims are

encouraged to register online due to the possibility of high call volume.

If registering by phone, owners of commercial properties and residents with only minor losses are urged to wait a few days before calling so those whose homes were destroyed or heavily damaged can be served first. Phone lines are open 24-hours, 7 days a week.

Among other major developments in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, according to the Associated Press:

— President Bush signs \$10.5 billion aid package for hurricane relief after visiting hard-hit areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

— National Guard members halt the evacuation of Louisiana's Superdome early Saturday. About 2,000 people remained in the football stadium and could be there until Sunday, according to the Texas Air National Guard.

— Black members of Congress denounced the slow federal response to Hurricane Katrina. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, D-Md., said "We cannot allow it to be said by history that the difference between those who lived and those who died in the great storm and flood of 2005 was nothing more than poverty, age or skin color."

— U.S. Air Force plans to send 300 airmen home from Iraq and Afghanistan to help their families cope with emergencies on a hurricane-devastated air base in Biloxi, Miss.

— "A Concert for Hurricane Relief," which aired on NBC and other networks Friday night, took an unexpected turn when rapper Kanye West sharply criticized President Bush. Friday's program was the first of several TV benefits planned through next weekend.

— State officials from as far away as Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming and Michigan offered to accept additional hurricane evacuees. More than 50 nations have pledged money or other assistance to help Americans recover from the hurricane.



An emotional Francis Savoy and his wife CP sit outside the Bay St. Louis High School with the only belongings they could salvage after their homes were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in Bay St. Louis on Friday. When describing the living conditions at the make-shift shelter, Francis said he would "rather be dead than live like this." (AP Photo/Denis Paquin)

Thousands still unaccounted for after storm

Thousands of Americans are worried about their loved ones in the aftermath of devastating Hurricane Katrina. With widespread power and communications outages and roads under water, it's important to go back to communication basics to ensure that your family and friends know you are safe:

- Call an out of town contact to let them know you are safe.
- Ask them to spread the word to your family and friends. Make sure your contact lives far enough away that they are not affected by the same storm.
- Rest assured that emergency responders are acting as quickly as

possible and are doing all that they can to help those affected.

- Remember that storms mean power outages and downed phone lines. Please keep trying and be patient.
- Phone lines are overwhelmed. Try sending an email —sometimes email works when phones don't.

Health Precautions

Illness and loss of life are at their greatest after a storm passes. Power loss and flooding after a storm bring risks of contamination to food and drinking water, and create an environment where infectious diseases can spread.

Mississippians are urged to observe the following precautions now to prevent illness and injury:

- Boil or disinfect water before using. Standing water can be contaminated and dangerous. Flooding can contaminate tap water as well. Assume that water in flooded areas is not safe unless you know otherwise.
- Discard stored food that is not canned or cold. Loss of power can rapidly lead to food spoilage.
- Take extra hygienic measures. Wash hands often and thoroughly, especially if they come into contact with floodwater.
- If your water comes from a private well, read about Disinfecting Water Wells
- Risk from mosquitoes will increase in wet, unprotected conditions.



Dorothy Clark sits outside the Bay St. Louis High School where hundreds of residents who lost their homes during Hurricane Katrina are taking refuge Friday. The facility has received very little assistance and most residents have to live outdoors because of the poor conditions inside. (AP Photo/Denis Paquin)



Bay St. Louis resident Richard Slaughter tries to make his way to his home in the hurricane-ravaged town Wednesday in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. (AP Photo/The Dallas Morning News, Louis Deluca)



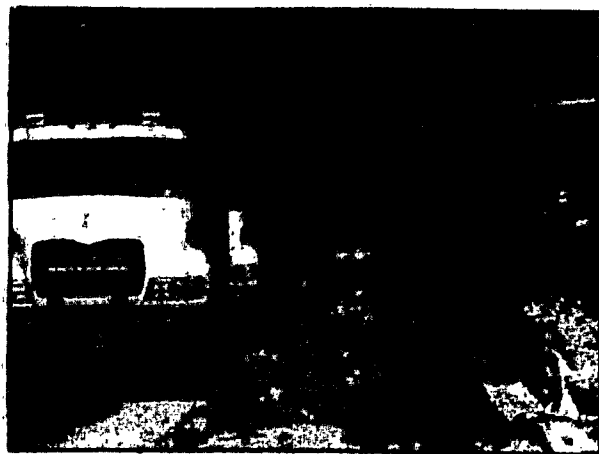
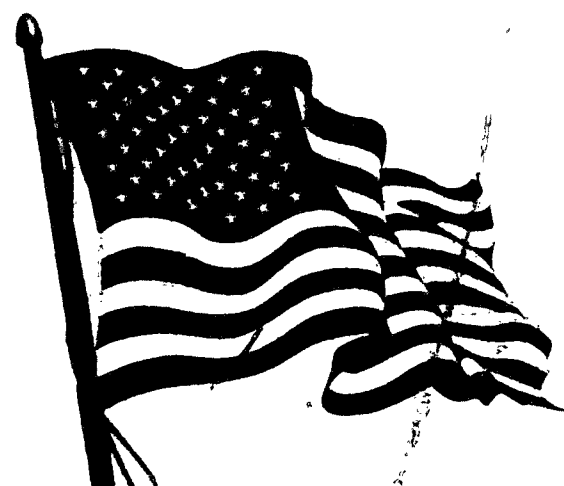
Jay Duffard, injured while attempting to stay in his home during Hurricane Katrina, attempts to sleep in the wet theatre of the Bay St. Louis High School in Bay St. Louis, Miss., on Friday, Sept. 12 2005. Local residents who are using the high school as a makeshift shelter have received very little assistance from aid services since losing their homes to the hurricane. (AP Photo/Denis Paquin)



Troy Lee, left, on Wednesday embraces his friend, police officer Joel Wallace after discovering he had survived Hurricane Katrina. (AP Photo/Ben Sklar)



Members of the New York City Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, John Ryan with his dog Justice and Joe Caputo search through home destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in Bay St. Louis, Ms., on Friday. (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)



Life in Hancock after the storm

Cleaning up and making the most of Coast living after Hurricane Katrina. Page 10

The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892 • We're still here

VOL. 111 NO. 71 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

WWW.SEA COAST ECHO.COM

ONE SECTION, 11 PAGES

Friday
Sept. 16, 2005

Hurricane resources

Federal Emergency Management Agency: 1-800-621-3362 (TTY: 1-800-462-7585). Mississippi Emergency Management Agency: 601-352-9100. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: 1-800-311-3435. American Red Cross: 1-866-GET-INFO (1-866-438-4636). Mississippi Dept. of Health: 1-866-458-4948. Epidemiology reporting line: 1-800-556-0033. West Nile Virus hotline: 877-978-6453.

Drag trash, debris to curb

Please drag your trash and debris to the curb. Trash and debris pickup is well underway in Waveland, began in the county on Thursday and should be underway in Bay St. Louis today.

Tree removal

Volunteers are available to cut trees off of houses, said Bay St. Louis Councilman Jeffrey Reed. If you need this service call the Emergency Operations Center at 727-450-8862.

Beware of potential cons

Please be aware that people are in the area trying to buy property for pennies on the dollar. Many citizens have already been approached. Officials recommend that residents be cautious when approached by any unknown person wanting to buy property or sell a service.

SBA grants

Grant dollars may be available through the Small Business Administration to help small businesses reopen. Apply through FEMA.

Edmond Taffey
FUNERAL HOME

Complete
Funeral, Cemetery
And Mausoleum
Pre-Arrangements
467-9031

Time & Temp

467-9051

HANCOCK BANK

Member FDIC

'Wind-driven water, not flood'

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

The county will permit temporary power poles to residents who want to put a travel trailer on their property, said Board of Supervisors President Roderick "Rocky"

Pullman on Wednesday. FEMA will provide temporary housing in the form of RV's and travel trailers to those who have lost their homes for 18 months or more.

"We have been on the first level of recovery so far," said

Pullman, "That was to make sure people the basics would be provided perform search and rescue and clear the roads. Now one of our priorities is to make sure that our congressional leaders under-

RECOVERY-PAGE 6

'I think the federal government will help our state and ... get our lives back together.'
— Rocky Pullman

Gone to the Dogs



Volunteers collected animals abandoned or lost during Katrina at the Farmer's market in Hancock County. The animals will be held in Hattiesburg for 30 days before being adopted. Below left: Maria Raldré checks a dog brought in by a Hancock County resident on Wednesday.

Veterinarians from around the nation come to help Hancock's animals

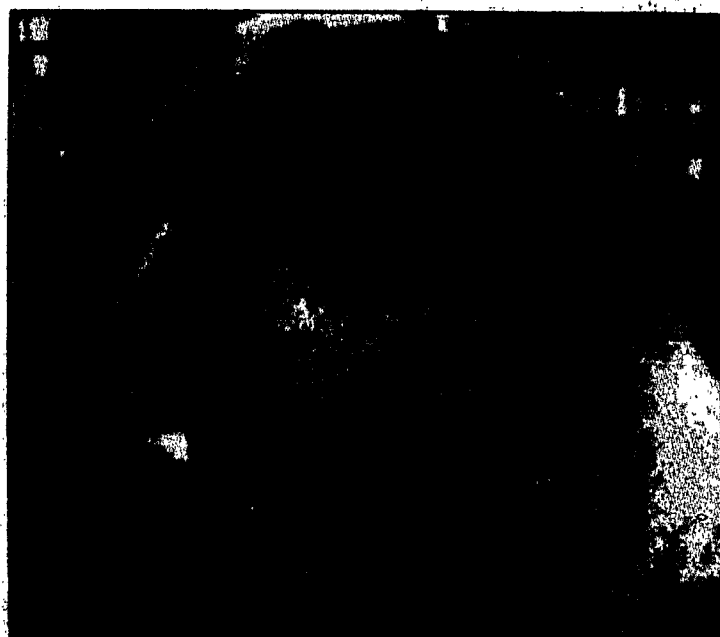
BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

When Derris and Rebecca Watts and their son Anthony, all of DeLisle, arrived at the makeshift animal clinic and rescue center set up in the farmer's market on Longfellow Rd. they were frantic. Their beloved dog Red had one ear that was swelled up like a balloon. The vet they had visited, the Watts said, took the dog's temperature and charged them \$35, but did nothing else to help the animal, the Watts said.

"He told us he couldn't do anything else without power," said Rebecca. "We already knew the dog had a fever."

Power or no power, the Watts found help at the outdoor clinic. Within fifteen minutes after their arrival at the site, veterinarian Lisa Sharp, of Batesville had Red sedated on a table and was lancing her swollen ear. The swelling was a result of a hematoma, Sharp said. Red likely scratched her ear because ear mites, she. The operation looked worse than it was, Sharp said, because the ear contained a lot of

VETS-PAGE 6



For News, Advertising or to Subscribe to The Sea Coast Echo, Call (228) 467-5474 FAX: 467-5433



Dorothy Clark sits outside the Bay St. Louis High School where hundreds of residents who lost their homes during Hurricane Katrina are taking refuge Friday. The facility has received very little assistance and most residents have to live outdoors because of the poor conditions inside. (AP Photo/Denis Paquin)



Bay St. Louis resident Richard Slaughter tries to make his way to his home in the hurricane-ravaged town Wednesday in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. (AP Photo/The Dallas Morning News, Louis Deluca)



Jay Duffard, injured while attempting to stay in his home during Hurricane Katrina, attempts to sleep in the wet theatre of the Bay St. Louis High School in Bay St. Louis, Miss., on Friday, Sept. 12 2005. Local residents who are using the high school as a makeshift shelter have received very little assistance from aid services since losing their homes to the hurricane. (AP Photo/Denis Paquin)



Troy Lee, left, on Wednesday embraces his friend, police officer Joel Wallace after discovering he had survived Hurricane Katrina. (AP Photo/Ben Sklar)



Members of the New York City Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, John Ryan with his dog Justice and Joe Caputo search through home destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in Bay St. Louis, Ms., on Friday. (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)